

CUMULUS MEDIA INC  
Form DEF 14A  
March 29, 2019  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, DC 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
**Information Required in Proxy Statement**  
**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:

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-12

**CUMULUS MEDIA INC.**

**(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)**

**N/A**

**(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 14a-6(i)(4) 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):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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**CUMULUS MEDIA INC.**

**Annual Meeting of Stockholders April 30, 2019**

**Notice of Meeting and Proxy Statement**

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**3280 Peachtree Road, N.W.**

**Suite 2200**

**Atlanta, Georgia 30305**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**To Be Held On April 30, 2019**

To the Stockholders of Cumulus Media Inc.:

The 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Cumulus Media Inc., a Delaware corporation ( Cumulus Media, we or the Company ), will be held at 2 Penn Plaza, Floor 17, New York, New York 10121, on April 30, 2019 at 8:00 a.m., local time, for the following purposes:

- (1) to elect seven directors to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified;
- (2) to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation paid to the Company s named executive officers;
- (3) to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for 2019; and
- (4) to transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

Only holders of record of shares of the Company s Class A common stock at the close of business on March 15, 2019 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

Holders of a majority of the outstanding voting power represented by the shares of the Company s Class A common stock must be present in person or by proxy in order for the meeting to be held. Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote **FOR** each of the director nominees, **FOR** the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation paid to the Company s named executive officers and **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for 2019. We urge you to date, sign and return the accompanying proxy card in the enclosed envelope, or vote your shares by telephone or via the Internet, as soon as possible, whether or not you expect to attend the annual meeting in person. If you attend the annual meeting and wish to vote your shares in person, you may do so by validly revoking your proxy at any time prior to the vote.

This notice, the proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card are being distributed to stockholders and made available on the Internet commencing on or about March 30, 2019.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held on April 30, 2019**

The proxy statement and the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 are available at [www.edocumentview.com/CMLS](http://www.edocumentview.com/CMLS). If you need directions to the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, please call (404) 949-0700.

Mary G. Berner

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

March 29, 2019

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**INFORMATION REGARDING THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**Proxy Statement; Date, Time and Place of Annual Meeting**

We are furnishing this proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies by our Board of Directors for use at our 2019 annual meeting of stockholders (the annual meeting ) to be held on April 30, 2019, at 8:00 a.m., local time, at 2 Penn Plaza, Floor 17, New York, New York 10121, or at any adjournment or postponement of that meeting. At the annual meeting, stockholders will be asked to consider and vote on the items of business listed and described in this proxy statement. This proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card are first being distributed to our stockholders and made available on the Internet on or about March 30, 2019.

**Record Date; Quorum; Outstanding Common Stock Entitled to Vote**

All holders of record of our Class A common stock as of the close of business on March 15, 2019 (the Record Date ) are entitled to receive notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting. If your shares are held in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee, you must obtain a proxy card from your bank, broker or other nominee in order to be able to vote your shares at the annual meeting. As of the Record Date, there were 13,927,007 shares of our Class A common stock outstanding. Each share of Class A common stock outstanding is entitled to one vote for each of the seven director nominees and one vote on each other matter to be acted on at the annual meeting. The presence, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the voting power represented by our outstanding shares of Class A common stock is required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting.

Abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated as present for purposes of determining a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a registered holder (such as a bank, broker or other nominee) holding shares in street name for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the registered holder does not have discretionary voting power for that particular proposal and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner. Banks, brokers or other nominees that have not received voting instructions from their clients cannot vote on their clients behalf on the election of directors, or the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation paid to our named executive officers, which is sometimes referred to as the advisory vote on executive compensation or the say-on-pay vote, but may (but are not required to) vote their clients shares on the proposal to ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm.

If a quorum is not present at the scheduled time of the annual meeting, the chairman of the meeting may adjourn or postpone the annual meeting until a quorum is present. The time and place of the adjourned or postponed annual meeting will be announced at the time the adjournment or postponement is taken, and, unless such adjournment or postponement is for more than 30 days, no other notice will be given. An adjournment or postponement will have no effect on the business that may be conducted at the annual meeting.

**Voting Rights; Vote Required for Approval**

Each share of Class A common stock outstanding is entitled to one vote for each of the seven director nominees and one vote on each other matter to be acted on at the annual meeting. Cumulative voting for director nominees is not allowed.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast and represented at the annual meeting is required to elect each director nominee, to approve, on an advisory basis, the Company s executive compensation and to ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for 2019. Votes withheld from the election of directors and abstentions with respect to the approval, on an advisory basis, of the Company s executive compensation



and the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for 2019 will have the same effect as a vote against such director or such proposal, but broker non-votes will not be considered to be votes entitled to be cast and will have no effect on the outcome of the vote on the election of directors or the approval, on an advisory basis, of the Company's executive compensation.

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### **Voting and Revocation of Proxies**

A proxy is a legal designation of another person to vote stock you own. That other person is called a proxy. If you designate someone as your proxy in a written or electronic document, that document is also called a proxy, a proxy card or a form of proxy. A proxy card for you to use in voting at the annual meeting accompanies this proxy statement. You may also vote by telephone or by the Internet as follows:

by telephone: call toll free 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) and follow the instructions provided by the recorded message; or

by the Internet: visit [www.envisionreports.com/CMLS](http://www.envisionreports.com/CMLS) and follow the steps outlined on the secure website. If your shares are held in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee, you should follow the instructions for voting on the form provided by your bank, broker or other nominee. You may submit voting instructions by telephone or through the Internet or, if you received your proxy materials by mail, you may complete and mail a proxy card to your bank, broker or other nominee. If you provide specific voting instructions by telephone, through the Internet or by mail, your bank, broker or other nominee will vote your shares as you have directed.

All properly executed proxies that are received prior to, or at, the annual meeting and not revoked (and all shares properly voted by telephone or the Internet) will be voted in the manner specified. If you execute and return a proxy card, and do not specify otherwise, the shares represented by your proxy will be voted **FOR** each of the director nominees, **FOR** the advisory approval of executive compensation and **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2019.

If you have given a proxy or voted by telephone or the Internet pursuant to this solicitation, you may nonetheless revoke that proxy or vote by attending the annual meeting and voting in person. In addition, you may revoke any proxy you give before the annual meeting by voting by telephone or the Internet at a later date (in which case only the last vote will be counted) prior to 1:00 a.m. Eastern Time on April 30, 2019, by delivering a written statement revoking the proxy or vote or by delivering a duly executed proxy bearing a later date to Richard S. Denning, Corporate Secretary, at our principal executive offices, 3280 Peachtree Road, N.W., Suite 2200, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, so that it is received prior to the annual meeting, or by voting at the annual meeting itself prior to the closing of the polls. If you have executed and delivered a proxy to us or voted by telephone or the Internet, your attendance at the annual meeting will not, by itself, constitute a revocation of your proxy.

### **Solicitation of Proxies and Householding**

We will bear the cost of the solicitation of proxies. We will solicit proxies initially by mail. Further solicitation may be made by our directors, officers and employees personally, by telephone, facsimile, e-mail or otherwise, but they will not be compensated specifically for these services. Upon request, we will reimburse brokers, dealers, banks or similar entities acting as nominees for their reasonable expenses incurred in forwarding copies of the proxy materials to the beneficial owners of the shares of common stock they hold of record.

From time to time, we, and if you hold your shares in street name, your bank, broker or other nominee, may participate in the practice of householding proxy soliciting material. This means that if you reside in the same household as other stockholders of record or beneficial owners of our common stock, you may not receive your own copy of our proxy materials, even though each stockholder receives his or her own proxy card. If your household

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received one set of proxy materials and you are a stockholder of record who would like to receive additional copies of our proxy materials, you may request a duplicate set by contacting our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive offices, 3280 Peachtree Road, N.W., Suite 2200, Atlanta, Georgia 30305 or at the following telephone number: (404) 949-0700. If you share an address with other stockholders of record and your household received multiple sets of proxy materials, and you would like for your household to receive a single

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copy of our proxy materials, you may make such a request by contacting our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive offices listed above. If you hold your shares in street name, please contact your bank, broker or other nominee directly to request a duplicate set of proxy materials or to reduce the number of copies of our proxy materials that are sent to your household.

**Other Matters**

Except for the votes on the proposals described in this proxy statement, no other matter is expected to come before the annual meeting. If any other business properly comes before the annual meeting, the persons named as proxies will vote in their discretion to the extent permitted by law.

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**PROPOSAL NO. 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Pursuant to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company (the Charter ) and the Amended and Restated By-laws of the Company (the By-laws ), members of the board of directors (the Board of Directors or the Board ) are elected or appointed to a term which expires at the next successive annual meeting of stockholders and when their successors are duly elected and qualified. Our Board consists of seven members. Each of the director nominees was appointed to the Board in connection with our plan of reorganization, which became effective on our emergence from our Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings on June 4, 2018 (the Emergence ). References to the Company in this proxy statement include its predecessor company for all periods prior to Emergence.

The director nominees have all been nominated for election by our Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee of the Board. If elected, each of the director nominees will serve until the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders or until each is succeeded by another qualified director who has been duly elected or appointed. Our Board of Directors has no reason to believe that any of the individuals nominated will be unable or unwilling to serve as directors. If for any reason any of these individuals becomes unable or unwilling to serve before the annual meeting, it is expected that the persons named as proxies will vote for the election of such other persons as our Board of Directors may recommend.

Detailed information about each of the director nominees is provided below.

*Mary G. Berner*, age 59, has served as our Chief Executive Officer since October 2015 and as one of our directors since May 2015. She was also appointed as our President in March 2016. Prior to being appointed as Chief Executive Officer in October 2015, Ms. Berner served as President and Chief Executive Officer of MPA-The Association of Magazine Media, which is the industry association for multi-platform magazine media companies, since September 2012. From 2007 to 2011, she served as Chief Executive Officer of Reader s Digest Association, a global media and direct marketing company, and a member of the board. While at Reader s Digest Association, Ms. Berner successfully led that company through a restructuring of its debt in a voluntary prearranged reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in under eight months, emerging from bankruptcy protection in February 2010. Nearly two years after Ms. Berner resigned from Reader s Digest Association, that company again filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 in February 2013. Before that, from November 1999 until January 2006, she led Fairchild Publications, Inc., first as President and Chief Executive Officer and then as President of Fairchild and as an officer of Condé Nast. She has also held leadership roles at Glamour, TV Guide, W, Women s Wear Daily, Every Day with Rachael Ray and Allrecipes.com. Ms. Berner has served on numerous industry and not-for-profit boards. Ms. Berner received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the College of Holy Cross (Massachusetts).

Ms. Berner, who has gained significant operational and strategic knowledge of our Company as President and Chief Executive Officer, has over 30 years of senior executive experience in the media and advertising industry allowing her to add significant strategic perspective to the Board. In addition, her track record of overseeing revenue growth in the companies she has led, as well as her expertise managing businesses in transition is important as we position ourselves for future growth and success.

*David M. Baum*, age 54, is a private investor in, and strategic advisor to, a number of companies. He served as President of Revolution Golf, a digital media company, from March 2013 until its acquisition by The Golf Channel in July of 2017 and he continues to serve as a Special Advisor to The Golf Channel. Among other endeavors, Mr. Baum served for over seventeen years in various roles at Goldman, Sachs & Co., an investment bank, retiring in 2003 as a partner and head of the Mergers & Acquisitions department in the Americas. Mr. Baum serves on the boards of directors of Happify, Inc. and the Marcus Corporation.

Mr. Baum has extensive experience in capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, and business strategy across a wide range of companies and sectors. His significant professional experience provides a solid and diverse

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platform for him to provide a perspective to our Board of Directors on financial, strategic and acquisition-related matters and to his service on the Compensation and Nominating Committees.

*Matthew C. Blank*, age 68, most recently served from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 as an advisor to Showtime Networks Inc. ( Showtime ), a subsidiary of CBS Corporation (NYSE: CBS). Prior to that in 2016 and 2017, he served as Chairman of Showtime, and from 1995 through 2015 he served as Chief Executive Officer of Showtime. From 1993-1995 he was President and Chief Operating Officer of the company and from 1988-1992 he served as Executive Vice President of Marketing, Creative Services, and Public Affairs. Prior to his service at Showtime, Mr. Blank served for over 12 years in various roles at Home Box Office, Inc., a premium television network, leaving HBO as its Senior Vice President of Consumer Marketing. Mr. Blank served on the board of directors of Geeknet, Inc. from 2010 to 2015. Mr. Blank served on the board of the National Cable Television Association from 1994-2017 and is a member of the board of directors of The Cable Center. He currently serves as a trustee of The Harlem Children's Zone, The Manhattan Theater Club, as well as The Creative Coalition, and The Museum of the Moving Image.

Mr. Blank has extensive corporate management experience in the media industry, as evidenced by his senior management positions at Showtime and HBO, which will allow him to offer management and operational insight to the Board. In addition, this history and experience contributes to the Board through significant insight into a number of functional areas critical to Cumulus and allows him to bring a unique perspective to his service on the Compensation and Nominating Committees.

*Thomas H. Castro*, age 63, has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of El Dorado Capital, LLC, a private equity investment firm, since December 2008. Previously, he was the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Border Media Partners, LLC, a radio broadcasting company that primarily targets Hispanic listeners in Texas, from 2002 to 2007 and its Vice Chairman through 2008. Prior to that, Mr. Castro owned and operated other radio stations and founded a company that exported oil field equipment to Mexico. Mr. Castro served on the board of directors of Time Warner Cable, Inc. ( Time Warner ) from 2006 to 2016. Mr. Castro currently serves as Chairman of the board of directors of the Texas Charter Schools Association, and is a board member of the National Board of Teach for America and Spellman College.

Mr. Castro has significant operating and financial experience as well as an in-depth understanding of the Company's industry which allows him to bring a valuable perspective to the Board and his significant financial experience makes him particularly suited to serve on the Audit Committee. In addition, through his entrepreneurial experience and community work, Mr. Castro brings an important and unique perspective to the Board.

*Joan Hogan Gillman*, age 55, served as Executive Vice President of Time Warner, a media, telecom and cable company, and Chief Operating Officer of its Time Warner Cable Media division (\$1.1b in revenue), for which she maintained financial and operating responsibility, from September 2006 to June 2016. Prior to her service at Time Warner Cable, Ms. Gillman served in senior executive roles at OpenTV Corporation, a digital television software company; British Interactive Broadcasting Holdings Limited, a provider of digital TV and interactive services in the U.K; Physicians Online Inc., an Internet Service Provider and portal for physicians, and served ten years as a staff member to a United States Senator. Ms. Gillman currently serves on the board of directors of Airgain, Inc., Centrica PLC (CNA: LN), InterDigital, Inc. (NASDAQ: ICC) and BAI Communications. Ms. Gillman also serves as the Chairman of the board of directors of the Jesuit Volunteer Group and Managing member of the David T. Langrock Foundation.

Ms. Gillman has substantial corporate management experience as well as expertise in the digital and traditional media and communications industry through her various senior management positions at media and communications companies which allow her to provide an in-depth understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with

our business to the Board including providing valuable insight in her service on the Compensation and Nominating Committees.



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*Andrew W. Hobson*, age 57, has served as a Partner and the Chief Financial Officer of Innovatus Capital Partners, LLC, a private investment firm, since January 2016. From 1994 to 2015, Mr. Hobson served in various roles at Univision Communications Inc., a media company, including Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from October 2007 through February 2015, during which time he was responsible for all financial aspects of the company. Prior to his employment at Univision, Mr. Hobson served as a Principal at Chartwell Partners LLC from 1990 to 1994.

Mr. Hobson's has significant financial and corporate management experience, including with respect to the media industry. His experience in critical financial analysis and strategic planning brings essential skills and a unique perspective to the Board. In addition, his significant financial accounting experience makes him well suited to serve on the Audit Committee.

*Brian G. Kushner*, age 60, has since 2009 served as a Senior Managing Director at FTI Consulting, Inc. (NYSE: FCN) ( FTI ), a global business advisory firm, where he serves as the leader of the Private Capital Advisory Services practice and as the co-leader of the Technology practice, the Aerospace, Defense and Government Contracting practice and the Activism and M&A Solutions practice. Prior to joining FTI, Dr. Kushner was the co-founder of CXO, L.L.C., a boutique interim and turnaround management consulting firm that was acquired by FTI at the end of 2008. Dr. Kushner periodically served as Chief Restructuring Officer (or in an analogous position) of companies which elected to utilize bankruptcy proceedings as a part of their financial restructuring process and, as such, he served as an executive officer of various companies which filed bankruptcy petitions under federal law, including, among others, Relativity Media LLC in 2015. Dr. Kushner has also served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Sage Telecom, a telecommunications company and, before Sage, as President and Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Crossing Limited, a trans-Pacific telecommunications company. He currently serves on the board of directors of Dex Media, Inc., Gibson Brands, Inc., Mudrick Capital Acquisition Corporation (NASDAQ: MUDS) and DevelopOnBox Holding, LLC d/b/a Zodiac Interactive. He has previously served on the board of directors of Luxfer Holdings PLC (NYSE: LXFR), Pacific Crossing Limited, Damovo Group, Everywhere Global, Inc. (now The Oneida Group), DLN Holdings, LLC and Caribbean Asset Holdings LLC.

Dr. Kushner brings extensive financial and corporate management experience to our Board of Directors, as evidenced by the variety of senior management positions he has held throughout his career. Dr. Kushner has also served as a member of several boards of directors, which allows him to leverage his experience for the further benefit of the Company. In addition, Dr. Kushner's significant financial experience brings essential skills and a unique perspective to his services on the Audit Committee.

## **Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

**Your Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR each of the director nominees.**

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**INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors is elected by our stockholders to oversee our business and affairs and to assure that the long-term interests of our stockholders are being served. Our business is conducted by our employees, managers and officers under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer, and with the oversight of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors held nine meetings during 2018. Seven of such meetings were held post-Emergence. Each director attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the committees on which he or she served, during the period that he or she served. During the intervals between scheduled meetings, the Board periodically is updated by management on business, operational and strategic developments, and engages in active discussions about such developments. We do not have a formal policy regarding attendance by directors at our annual meetings of stockholders, but we encourage all incumbent directors, as well as all director nominees, to attend our annual meeting of stockholders. Because of the Company's reorganization and Emergence in 2018, there was no annual meeting of stockholders in 2018; accordingly, no directors attended an annual meeting in 2018.

**Director Independence**

Our Board of Directors has reviewed the standards of independence for directors established by applicable laws and regulations, including the current listing standards of the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules, and has reviewed and evaluated the relationships of the directors with the Company and our management. Based upon this review and evaluation, our Board of Directors has determined that none of the current non-employee members of the Board of Directors or director nominees has a relationship with the Company or our management that would interfere with such director's exercise of independent judgment, and that each non-employee member of the Board of Directors is independent as such term is defined under the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules. The independent directors meet periodically in executive sessions.

**Board of Directors Leadership Structure**

Andrew W. Hobson serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

As Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Hobson's responsibilities include, among others:

providing oversight of corporate governance matters;

developing Board of Directors meeting agendas;

overseeing and managing any potential conflict of interest issues;

coordinating communication and integration across committees; and

presiding over Board meetings and executive sessions of the independent directors.

In light of the ongoing challenging general economic, business and competitive environment, the Board believes the separation of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles remains appropriate as it enhances oversight of management by the Board of Directors, Board independence, and accountability to our stockholders. In addition, it allows Ms. Berner, our President and Chief Executive Officer, to dedicate substantially all of her professional time and attention to the significant operational demands facing the Company.

We believe that the foregoing structure and responsibilities, when combined with the Company's other governance policies and procedures, provide appropriate opportunities for oversight, discussion and evaluation of decisions and direction from the Board of Directors.

#### **Committees of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors has an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating Committee. Each committee operates pursuant to a written charter in compliance with the applicable provisions of the

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Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the related rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) and the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules. Copies of these charters are available on our corporate website, at [www.cumulusmedia.com](http://www.cumulusmedia.com).

*The Audit Committee.* The purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist our Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to:

our accounting, reporting and financial practices, including the integrity of our financial statements;

our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;

the independent auditors' qualifications and independence; and

the performance of the independent auditors.

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our financial statements on behalf of our Board of Directors. The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of our independent registered public accounting firm (including resolution of any disagreements between our management and our independent registered public accounting firm regarding financial reporting), and our independent registered public accounting firm reports directly to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee met nine times in 2018, with five of such meetings occurring post-Emergence. The current members of the Audit Committee are Brian G. Kushner (Chairman), Thomas H. Castro and Andrew W. Hobson. Our Board of Directors has determined that each Audit Committee member is independent, as such term is defined under the rules of the SEC and the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules applicable to audit committee members, and meets the financial literacy requirements of the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules. No member of the Audit Committee participated in the preparation of our, or our subsidiaries', financial statements at any time during the past three years. In addition, our Board of Directors has determined that Dr. Kushner (1) is an audit committee financial expert, as such term is defined under the rules of the SEC, and (2) meets the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules' professional experience requirements. In making such determination, the Board of Directors took into consideration, among other things, the express provision in Item 407(d) of SEC Regulation S-K that the determination that a person has the attributes of an audit committee financial expert shall not impose any greater responsibility or liability on that person than the responsibility and liability imposed on such person as a member of the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors, nor shall it affect the duties and obligations of other Audit Committee members or the Board of Directors.

*The Compensation Committee.* The Compensation Committee oversees the determination of all matters relating to employee compensation and benefits and specifically reviews and approves salaries, bonuses and equity-based compensation for our executive officers.

Our Board of Directors has delegated specifically to the Compensation Committee the following areas of responsibilities:

performance evaluation, compensation and development of our executive officers;

establishment of performance objectives under the Company's short- and long-term incentive compensation arrangements and determination of the attainment of such performance objectives; and

oversight and administration of benefit plans.

The Compensation Committee generally consults with management in addressing executive compensation matters. Subject to applicable parameters in various employment agreements entered into with our executive officers, our Chief Executive Officer, based on the performance evaluations of the other executive officers, recommends to the Compensation Committee compensation for those executive officers. The executive officers,

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including our Chief Financial Officer, also provide recommendations to the Compensation Committee from time to time regarding key business drivers included in compensation program design, especially incentive programs, which may include defining related measures and explaining the mutual influence on or by other business drivers and the accounting and tax treatment relating to certain awards. Our Chief Executive Officer also provides regular updates to the Compensation Committee regarding current and anticipated performance outcomes, including the impact on executive compensation. The Compensation Committee has the authority to retain compensation consultants from time to time as it deems appropriate.

The Compensation Committee met four times in 2018, with three of such meetings occurring post-Emergence. In between scheduled meetings, the members of the Compensation Committee receive periodic updates and are active in ensuring that the Company's compensation programs remain consistent with marketplace developments and Company performance. The members of the Compensation Committee during 2018 were David M. Baum (Chairman), Matthew C. Blank and Joan Hogan Gillman. Each of the members of the Compensation Committee is independent, as such term is defined under the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules.

*The Nominating Committee.* The Nominating Committee is responsible for:

identifying individuals qualified to become Board members, consistent with criteria approved from time to time by the Board;

selecting, or recommending that the Board select, the director nominees to election at each annual meeting of stockholders; and

recommending Board members to serve on the standing committees of the Board.

Because of the Company's reorganization and Emergence the Nominating Committee did not meet in 2018. The members of the Nominating Committee during 2018 were Joan Hogan Gillman (Chairman), Matthew C. Blank and David M. Baum. Each of the members of the Nominating Committee is independent, as such term is defined under the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules.

## **Risk Oversight**

Our Board of Directors as a whole has responsibility for risk oversight, with reviews of certain areas being conducted by the relevant Board committee, which reports on its deliberations to the full Board of Directors (except for those risks that require risk oversight solely by independent directors) as further described below. The Board of Directors believes that this structure for risk oversight is appropriate and, as only independent directors serve on the Board of Directors' standing committees, the independent directors have full access to all available information for risks that may affect us.

The Audit Committee is specifically charged with reviewing and discussing risk management (primarily financial and internal control risk), and receives regular reports from management (including legal and financial representatives), independent auditors, internal audit and outside legal counsel on risks related to, among other things, our financial controls and reporting, covenant compliance under our various financing and other agreements and cost of capital. The Compensation Committee considers risks related to the Company's compensation policies and programs, and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect to whether those compensation policies and programs are

properly implemented to discourage inappropriate risk-taking, and is regularly advised by management (including legal and financial representatives), outside legal counsel and compensation consultants. In addition, the Company's management, including the Company's General Counsel, regularly communicates with the Board of Directors regarding important risks that merit its review and oversight, including regulatory risk and risks stemming from periodic litigation or other legal matters in which we are involved. Further, we believe that our structure separating the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles more efficiently and appropriately allows for identification and assessment of issues that should be brought to the Board of Directors' attention.

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### **Director Nomination Process**

The purposes of the Nominating Committee include, among other things, identifying individuals qualified to become Board members and recommending candidates to the Board to fill new or vacant positions. In recommending candidates, the Nominating Committee considers such factors as it deems appropriate, consistent with criteria approved by the Board and as described in more detail below.

The Nominating Committee does not maintain a formal process for identifying and evaluating nominees for director. Historically, director candidates had been first identified by evaluating the current members of our Board of Directors. If a member whose term is expiring at the next succeeding annual meeting of stockholders no longer wished to continue in service, if the Board of Directors determined to increase the overall size of the Board, or if our Board of Directors decided not to re-nominate such member, the Nominating Committee would then determine whether to commence a search for qualified individuals meeting the criteria discussed below.

The Nominating Committee evaluates all candidates based upon, among other factors, a candidate's financial literacy, knowledge of our industry and other organizations of comparable size, other relevant background experience, judgment, skill, integrity, the interplay of a candidate's experience with the experience of other Board members, status as a stakeholder, independence (for purposes of compliance with the rules of the SEC and the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules), and willingness, ability and availability for service. There are no stated minimum criteria for director nominees, although the Nominating Committee may also consider such other factors as it may deem are in the best interests of us and our stockholders. The Nominating Committee considers diversity as it deems appropriate in this context (without having a formal diversity policy), given our current needs and the needs of the Board of Directors to maintain a balance of knowledge, experience and capability. When considering diversity, the Nominating Committee considers diversity as one factor, of no greater or lesser importance than other factors, and considers diversity in a broad context of race, gender, age, business experience, skills, international experience, education, other board experience and other relevant factors.

Our By-laws provide for stockholder nominations to our Board of Directors, subject to certain procedural requirements. To nominate a director to our Board of Directors, a stockholder must give timely notice of the nomination in writing to our Corporate Secretary not later than 90 days nor earlier than 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the annual meeting of stockholders in the preceding year. All such notices must include (i) the stockholder's name and address, (ii) a representation that the stockholder is one of our stockholders, and will remain so through the record date for the upcoming annual meeting of stockholders, (iii) the class and number of shares of our common stock that the stockholder holds (beneficially and of record), and (iv) a representation that the stockholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the upcoming annual meeting of stockholders to make the nomination. The stockholder must also provide information on his or her prospective nominee, including such person's name, address and principal occupation or employment, a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder, his or her prospective nominee and any other persons (to be named), the written consent of the prospective nominee and such other information as would be required to be included in a proxy statement soliciting proxies for the election of director nominees.

Historically, we have not had a formal policy with regard to the consideration of director candidates recommended by our stockholders. To date, our Board of Directors has not received any recommendations from stockholders requesting that it consider a candidate for inclusion among our Board of Directors' slate of nominees in our proxy statement. The absence of such a policy does not mean, however, that a recommendation would not have been considered had one been received, or will not be considered if one is received in the future. Our Board of Directors from time to time may give consideration to the circumstances in which the adoption of a formal policy would be appropriate.



**STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATION WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Any matter intended for our Board of Directors, or for any individual member or members of our Board of Directors, should be directed to Richard S. Denning, Corporate Secretary, at our principal executive offices, 3280

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Peachtree Road, N.W., Suite 2200, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, with a request to forward the same to the intended recipient. In the alternative, stockholders may direct correspondence to our Board of Directors to the attention of the chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors, in care of Richard S. Denning, Corporate Secretary, at our principal executive offices. All such communications will be forwarded unopened.

**SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ( Section 16(a) ), our directors and executive officers, and any persons who beneficially own more than 10% of our common stock, are required to file initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership with the SEC. Based upon our review of copies of such reports for our 2018 fiscal year and written representations from our directors and executive officers, we believe that our directors and executive officers, and beneficial owners of more than 10% of our common stock, timely complied with all applicable filing requirements for our 2018 fiscal year, except that Nimbus Atlas LLC, which has filed certain reports under Section 16(a) as a 10% owner, did not timely file its initial report of ownership on Form 3 and mistakenly omitted the beneficial ownership of certain shares of Class A common stock, which has since been corrected.

**Table of Contents****SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table lists information concerning the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 15, 2019 (unless otherwise noted) by (1) each person known to us to beneficially own more than 5% of any class of our voting common stock, (2) each of our directors and director nominees, and each of our named executive officers (as defined below), and (3) all of our current directors and executive officers as a group.

Name of Stockholder	Class A Common Stock(1)	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares Outstanding
David M. Baum	8,103(2)	*
Matthew C. Blank	8,103(2)	*
Thomas H. Castro	8,103(2)	*
Joan Hogan Gillman	8,103(2)	*
Thomas H. Castro	8,103(2)	*
Brian G. Kushner	8,103(2)	*
John Abbot	8,858	*
Mary G. Berner	17,461	*
Richard S. Denning	2,849	*
All current directors and executive officers as a group (10 persons)	88,753	*
Brigade Capital Management, LP(4)	2,319,044	14.3%
Eaton Vance Management(5)	1,267,592	8.3%
SP Signal Manager, LLC(6)	2,129,536	13.3%
Symphony Asset Management, LLC(7)	939,968	6.3%

\* Indicates less than one percent

- (1) Each share of Class A common stock entitles its holder to one vote on each matter to be voted upon by stockholders.
- (2) Includes 675 shares of Class A common stock underlying options that are either presently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days after March 15, 2019 and 1,350 shares of unvested restricted stock that will vest within 60 days after March 15, 2019.
- (3) Includes 1,351 shares of Class A common stock underlying options that are either presently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days after March 15, 2019 and 2,701 shares of unvested restricted stock that will vest within 60 days after March 15, 2019.
- (4) This information is based in part on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on December 19, 2019, by Brigade Capital Management, LP (Brigade LP); Brigade Capital Management GP, LLC (Brigade Management GP); Nimbus Atlas LLC (Nimbus), Brigade Capital GP, LLC (Brigade GP), Brigade Leveraged Capital Structures Fund Ltd. (Brigade Fund); and Donald E. Morgan, III, which stated that Brigade LP, Brigade Management GP and Donald E. Morgan III have shared voting power and shared dispositive power over 2,319,044 shares, Nimbus and Brigade GP have shared voting power and shared dispositive power over 1,674,273 shares and Brigade Fund has shared voting power and shared dispositive power over 711,528 shares. The address of: (i) Brigade LP, Brigade Management GP, Nimbus, Brigade GP and Donald E. Morgan III is 399 Park Avenue, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10022; and (ii) Brigade Fund is c/o Intertrust Corporate Services (Cayman) Ltd, 190 Elgin Avenue, George Town, Grand Cayman KYI-9007, Cayman Islands.

- (5) This information is based in part on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 15, 2019, by Eaton Vance Management, which stated that Eaton Vance Management has sole voting power and sole dispositive power over 1,267,592 shares. The address of Eaton Vance Management is 2 International Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.
- (6) This information is based in part on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on June 14, 2018, by SP Signal Manager, LLC ( SP Signal Manager ), SP Signal, LLC ( SP Signal ) and Edward A. Mulé, which stated that SP Signal Manager has sole voting power and sole dispositive power, and SP Signal and Edward A.

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- Mulé have shared voting power and shared dispositive power, over 2,129,536 shares. The address of SP Signal Manager, SP Signal and Edward A. Mulé is Two Greenwich Plaza, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830.
- (7) This information is based in part on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 14, 2019, by Symphony Asset Management, LLC, which stated that Symphony Asset Management, LLC has sole voting power and sole dispositive power over 939,968 shares. The address of Symphony Asset Management, LLC is 555 California Street, Suite 3100, San Francisco, California 94104.

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

For the year ended December 31, 2018, our Chief Executive Officer and our two other most highly compensated executive officers, who we refer to as our named executive officers, were:

Mary G. Berner, our President and Chief Executive Officer;

John Abbot, our Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; and

Richard S. Denning, our Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel.

**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table summarizes the total compensation paid to or earned by each of the named executive officers for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017.

	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus \$(1)	Stock Awards \$(2)	Non-Equity Incentive		All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
					Options Award \$(2)	Plan Compensation (3)		
<b>Mary G. Berner</b> President and Chief Executive Officer	2018	1,450,000	2,122,037	2,543,730	1,283,574		6,276	7,405,617
	2017	1,450,000	3,800,101				4,943	5,255,044
<b>John Abbot</b> Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer	2018	750,000	830,532	1,271,850	641,783			3,494,165
	2017	750,000	1,495,661				2,250	2,247,911
<b>Richard S. Denning</b> Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel	2018	550,000	431,175	398,520	201,093		3,656	1,584,444
	2017	550,000	896,765				10,124	1,456,889

(1) We consider a bonus paid in a given fiscal year and based on the Company's performance in the prior year as being earned in that prior year. The amounts reported in this column reflect the bonus earned for performance in the year indicated.

(2) Reflects the grant date fair value of awards calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. See note 12 of the consolidated financial statements in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018 for certain assumptions underlying the fair value of awards.

(3) See Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation below.

**Employment Agreements with Named Executive Officers**

*Berner Employment Agreement*

On September 29, 2015, we entered into an employment agreement with Ms. Berner (as amended, the Berner Employment Agreement ), pursuant to which she agreed to serve as our President and Chief Executive Officer. The Berner Employment Agreement, which remained in effect following Emergence, has a term through September 29, 2019, and contains a provision for automatic extensions of one-year periods thereafter, unless terminated in advance by either party in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Pursuant to the Berner Employment Agreement, Ms. Berner is entitled to receive an annual base salary of \$1,450,000 million, subject to increase.

The Berner Employment Agreement also provides that Ms. Berner is eligible for an annual cash bonus based upon achievement of annual performance goals for Ms. Berner and/or the Company determined by the Compensation Committee each year. The annual cash bonus is calculated as a percentage of Ms. Berner's base salary, with a target award opportunity of 100% of Ms. Berner's base salary and a maximum award opportunity of 150% of Ms. Berner's base salary. Notwithstanding these target and maximum award opportunities, the Berner Employment Agreement provides that the Compensation Committee may adjust upward the target and maximum award opportunities for Ms. Berner for each year.

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### *Abbot Employment Agreement*

Effective July 1, 2016, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Abbot, pursuant to which he agreed to serve as our Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (as amended, the *Abbot Employment Agreement*). The *Abbot Employment Agreement*, which remained in effect following Emergence, has a term through October 13, 2019, and contains a provision for automatic extensions of one-year periods thereafter, unless terminated in advance by either party in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Pursuant to the *Abbot Employment Agreement*, Mr. Abbot is entitled to receive an annual base salary of \$750,000, subject to increase.

The *Abbot Employment Agreement* also provides that Mr. Abbot is eligible for an annual cash bonus based upon achievement of performance criteria or goals set forth in an annual executive incentive plan proposed by the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Compensation Committee. The annual cash bonus will be calculated as a percentage of Mr. Abbot's base salary, with a target award opportunity of 75%, or a higher amount as determined by the Chief Executive Officer, up to a maximum award opportunity of 112.5% of his base salary.

### *Denning Employment Agreement*

On November 29, 2011, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Denning (as amended, the *Denning Employment Agreement*). The *Denning Employment Agreement*, which remained in effect following Emergence, has a term through November 29, 2019, and contains a provision for automatic extensions of one-year periods thereafter, unless terminated in advance by either party in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Pursuant to the agreement, Mr. Denning is entitled to receive an annual base salary of \$600,000, subject to further increase.

The *Denning Employment Agreement* also provides that Mr. Denning is eligible for an annual cash bonus based upon achievement of performance criteria or goals set forth in an executive incentive plan. The annual cash bonus is calculated as a percentage of Mr. Denning's base salary, with a target award opportunity of 40%, or a higher amount as determined by the Chief Executive Officer. If in any given year the Compensation Committee does not approve an executive incentive plan proposed by the Chief Executive Officer, or the Chief Executive Officer elects not to propose an executive incentive plan, the basis for annual cash bonuses to Mr. Denning will be governed by the bonus provisions in his employment agreement that were in effect immediately prior to January 1, 2016, pursuant to which Mr. Denning is entitled to receive an annual cash bonus based upon the achievement of Company and/or individual annual performance goals determined by the Compensation Committee, with a target award opportunity of 40% and a maximum award opportunity of 60% of base salary.

## **Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation**

In November 2017, the Board of Directors approved the Company's annual executive incentive plan in which named executive officers could participate, to operate as a quarterly incentive plan for 2018 (the *2018 QIP*), and approved performance targets for the supplemental incentive plan for 2018 (the *2018 SIP*) in which named executive officers could participate. The *2018 QIP* remained in effect following Emergence.

Awards to the named executive officers under the *2018 QIP* were based on the Company achieving budgeted adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) levels. The target cash incentive award opportunity available to each named executive officer under the *2018 QIP* was calculated as a percentage of each named executive officer's base salary, all in accordance with the terms of each such officer's employment agreement.

Under the *2018 QIP*, performance was measured at the end of each quarter, beginning with the quarter ended March 31, 2018, based on year-to-date performance at the end of the respective quarter. If target





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performance levels for the year-to-date period were met or exceeded, 25% of the total annual target bonus was awarded following the applicable quarter end. If, at the completion of any quarter, target performance levels for the year-to-date period (other than the full year period) were not met, no payment was made for that period.

Following the end of the year, actual annual performance was compared to the threshold, target and maximum performance goals. If the Company achieved the full-year 2018 threshold EBITDA goal, each named executive officer was entitled under the 2018 QIP to a total payout for the full year equal to 50% of his or her respective 2018 QIP target award opportunity. If the Company met or exceeded the full-year 2018 maximum EBITDA goal, each named executive officer was entitled under the 2018 QIP to a total payout for the full year equal to 150% of his or her respective 2018 QIP target award opportunity. Actual performance between threshold and target or target and maximum resulted in payout amounts determined by linear interpolation. The payout amount calculated for performance over the full-year period was reduced by payments previously made for the quarterly periods in 2018. Actual payments to each of the named executive officers under the 2018 QIP were as follows: Ms. Berner (\$1,497,287), Mr. Abbot (\$580,844) and Mr. Denning (\$227,175).

The 2018 SIP was approved to provide participants the opportunity to earn cash payments in ratable installments over fiscal quarters of 2018, based on the Company's year-to-date performance at the end of the respective period.

The 2018 SIP provided payouts only in the event the Company's EBITDA performance met or exceeded applicable levels after taking into account the proposed 2018 SIP payouts, making the program self-funding. Specifically, performance under the 2018 SIP was measured, and payments were to be made, as of the end of each applicable period, based on the Company's EBITDA after giving effect to any such proposed payments. If target performance levels for the year-to-date period were met or exceeded, one-fourth of the total annual 2018 SIP target bonus was awarded following each period end. If, after giving effect to such payments target performance levels for the year-to-date period (other than the full year period) had not been met, no payment was to be made following the applicable quarter. Under the 2018 SIP, the full-year target award opportunities for each named executive officer were as follows: Ms. Berner (\$1,470,000), Mr. Abbot (\$587,500) and Mr. Denning (\$480,000).

Upon Emergence, the SIP program was terminated and replaced by the Company's Long-Term Incentive Plan. Following the end of the second quarter, actual EBITDA performance was compared to the threshold, target and maximum performance goals, and payouts, if any, were determined in the same manner as under the 2018 QIP, except that under the 2018 SIP, EBITDA performance was determined after giving effect to such proposed payments and prorated based on a partial period for the second quarter. Actual payments to each of the named executive officers under the 2018 SIP were as follows: Ms. Berner (\$624,750), Mr. Abbot (\$249,688) and Mr. Denning (\$204,000).

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at 2018 Fiscal Year-End**

The following table sets forth the number and value of shares of restricted stock and stock options held by each named executive officer that were outstanding as of December 31, 2018. All awards relate to shares of Class A common stock. The value of restricted stock awards was calculated based on a price of \$10.80 per share, the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on December 31, 2018.

	Options Awards					Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Exercised Options Unexercisable (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)
<b>Mary G. Berner</b>		169,583(1)		25.70	06/05/2023			169,583(2)	1,831,496
<b>John Abbot</b>		84,791(1)		25.70	06/05/2023			84,791(2)	915,742
<b>Richard S. Denning</b>		26,568(1)		25.70	06/05/2023			26,568(2)	286,934

(1) This option vests on each of the first four anniversaries of June 5, 2019, with 30% of the award vesting on each of the first two anniversaries thereof, and 20% of the award vesting on each of the next two anniversaries thereof.

(2) The award vests as follows: (i) 50% based on the satisfaction of certain performance based criteria at the end of 2019, 2020 and 2021, in equal amounts each year and (ii) 50% on each of the first four anniversaries of June 5, 2019, with 30% of this portion of the award vesting on each of the first two anniversaries thereof, and 20% of this portion of the award vesting on each of the next two anniversaries thereof.

**Director Compensation**

Prior to June 4, 2018, the date of the Company's reorganization and emergence from bankruptcy, non-employee directors received an annual fee of \$60,000 for service on the Board, and each non-employee director received an additional fee of \$20,000 annually for service on each committee of which he or she was a member. Additionally, the Chairman of the Audit Committee received a fee of \$20,000 annually and the Chairman of the Compensation Committee received a fee of \$12,000 annually. Mr. Baker also received \$25,000 for his work on an ad-hoc committee

of the Board in connection with our filing for bankruptcy protection. In addition, in part to minimize dilution to stockholders in light of the trading prices of the Class A common stock, the Board determined that the annual grant of restricted shares of Class A common stock typically made to directors for Board service would instead be paid in an equivalent amount of cash of \$80,000. All annual fees were pro-rated based on the amount of time each director served in the 2018 fiscal year.

After the Company's reorganization and emergence from bankruptcy, non-employee directors received an annual fee of \$100,000. Additionally, the Chairman of the Board received an annual fee of \$40,000, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Chairman of the Compensation Committee each received an annual fee of \$25,000 and the Chairman of the Nominating Committee received an annual fee of \$15,000. All annual fees were pro-rated based on the amount of time each director served in the 2018 fiscal year.

Each non-employee director is also reimbursed for expenses actually incurred in attending in-person meetings of the Board of Directors and any committees.

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The following table sets forth amounts paid to our non-employee directors subsequent to the Company's reorganization and Emergence on June 4, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Directors who were also employees of the Company (Ms. Berner) received no additional compensation for their service as directors.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Earnings		All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
David M. Baum	71,747	81,030	23,094					175,870
Matthew C. Blank	57,397	81,030	23,094					161,521
Thomas H. Castro	57,397	81,030	23,094					161,521
Joan Hogan Gillman	66,007	81,030	23,094					170,130
Andrew W. Hobson	80,356	162,060	46,187					288,603
Brian G. Kushner	71,747	81,030	23,094					175,870

The following table sets forth amounts paid to our non-employee directors prior to the Company's reorganization and emergence from bankruptcy on June 4, 2018, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Earnings		All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
D.J. (Jan) Baker	93,000							93,000
Jill Bright	76,500							76,500
John W. Dickey	59,500							59,500
Ralph B. Everett	76,500							76,500
Ross A. Oliver	85,000							85,000
Jeff Marcus	91,800							91,800

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**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors offers this report regarding the Company's financial statements, and regarding certain matters with respect to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. This report shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this proxy statement into any filing with the SEC by the Company, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed to be filed with the SEC.*

The Audit Committee currently consists of Messrs. Kushner (Chairman), Castro and Hobson.

The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with the Company's management and with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, its independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Company's audited financial statements contained in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. The Audit Committee also discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the matters required to be discussed by the statement on Auditing Standards No. 16, *Communication with Audit Committees*, as amended, issued by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

The Audit Committee received the written disclosures and the letter from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP its independence. The Audit Committee also considered whether the provision of certain non-audit services to the Company by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is compatible with maintaining its independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors of the Company that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, filed with the SEC.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors:

Brian G. Kushner (Chairman)

Thomas H. Castro

Andrew W. Hobson

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**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

Our Board of Directors recognizes that related person transactions present a heightened risk of conflicts of interest. The Audit Committee has been delegated the authority to review and approve all related person transactions involving directors or executive officers of the Company. Generally, a related person transaction is a transaction in which we are a participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which any related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest. Related persons include our executive officers, directors and holders of more than 5% of our common stock, and any of their immediate family members. Under our related person transaction policy, when management becomes aware of a related person transaction, management reports the transaction to the Audit Committee and requests approval or ratification of the transaction. Generally, the Audit Committee will approve only related party transactions that are on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in arm's length dealings with an unrelated third party. The Audit Committee will report to the full Board of Directors all related person transactions presented to it. During the fiscal 2018 year, there were no reportable related party transactions.

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**PROPOSAL NO. 2: ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the Dodd-Frank Act ) provides stockholders with the right to vote to approve, on an advisory, non-binding, basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC. This stockholder advisory vote is commonly referred to as the say-on-pay vote. At the Company s 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, the Company s stockholders took action with respect to the say-on-pay vote and an advisory vote on the frequency of say-on-pay votes. A majority of votes cast on the advisory vote on the frequency of say-on-pay votes were for such vote to occur every year, supporting the Board of Director s recommendation. Based upon such result, the Board determined that an advisory say-on-pay vote would be held every year until the next advisory vote on the frequency of future say-on-pay votes.

Our philosophy with respect to executive compensation is to implement certain core compensation principles, namely, alignment of management s interests with our stockholders interests and encouraging and rewarding performance that contributes to enhanced long-term stockholder value and our general long-term financial health. Our compensation programs are designed in a consistent manner, and seek to ensure we can effectively attract and retain executive leadership, reward performance that enhances stockholder value and our financial strength, and align the interests of executive officers with other stockholders. We believe that our executive compensation philosophy and programs are appropriate to ensure management s interests are aligned with our stockholders interests in furtherance of long-term value creation. In the course of designing and implementing our compensation programs for 2018, the Compensation Committee, with input from management, determined what it considered appropriate levels and types of quantifiable financial-based incentives to motivate our named executive officers to achieve short-term and long-term business goals, after reviewing historical compensation levels, data and analyses regarding the compensation at our peer companies and the Company s business expectations for 2018. Please review the Summary Compensation Table and related narrative disclosure in this proxy statement which describes the compensation paid to our named executive officers in fiscal 2018.

The say-on-pay vote gives you as a stockholder the opportunity to express your views on the compensation of our named executive officers in 2018. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of our named executive officers in 2018 and our executive compensation philosophy, objectives, policies and practices. The Compensation Committee, which administers our executive compensation program, values the opinions expressed by stockholders and will consider the outcome of these votes in making its decisions on executive compensation in the future. Accordingly, the Board of Directors recommends that stockholders approve the following advisory resolution:

**RESOLVED, that the stockholders of Cumulus approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company s named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC, including the compensation tables and accompanying footnotes and narratives disclosed in this proxy statement.**

Because this vote is advisory, it will not be binding on the Compensation Committee, the Board of Directors or the Company. However, it will provide information to our management and Compensation Committee regarding investor sentiment about our executive compensation philosophy, objectives, policies and practices, which management and the Compensation Committee will be able to consider when determining executive compensation for the remainder of fiscal 2019 and beyond.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**



**Your Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the advisory approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement.**

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**PROPOSAL NO. 3: RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP AS INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for the appointment, compensation and retention of our independent registered public accounting firm.

The Audit Committee has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, and urges you to vote FOR ratification of the appointment. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since 2008. While stockholder ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm is not required by our By-laws or otherwise, our Board of Directors is submitting the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to our stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate governance. If our stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee may, but is not required to, reconsider whether to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of us and our stockholders.

Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are expected to be present at the annual meeting and, if present, will have the opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the firm if they desire to do so, and to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

**Auditor Fees and Services**

***Audit Fees***

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed us \$3,867,000 in the aggregate, for professional services rendered to audit our annual financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, to evaluate the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018 and to review the interim financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q filed in 2018. Audit fees in 2018 included \$1,925,000 for services related to auditing bankruptcy-related accounting matters, including the application of fresh-start accounting.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed us \$2,408,000, in the aggregate, for professional services rendered to audit our annual financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, to evaluate the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017 and to review the interim financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q filed in 2017.

***Audit Related Fees***

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP did not provide or bill us for any audit related services in 2018 or 2017.

***Tax Fees***

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP did not provide or bill us for any tax consulting services in 2018 or 2017.

***All Other Fees***

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed us \$3,000 for the use of certain software in 2018 and \$2,700 for the use of certain software in 2017.

***Policy on Pre-Approval of Services Performed by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm***

The policy of the Audit Committee is to require pre-approval of all audit and permissible non-audit services to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm during the fiscal year. The Audit Committee regularly considers all non-audit fees when reviewing the independence of our independent registered public accounting firm.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

**Your Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2019.**

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**CODE OF ETHICS**

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, referred to as our Code of Ethics, that applies to all of our employees, executive officers and directors and meets the requirements of the rules of the SEC and the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules. The Code of Ethics is available on our website, [www.cumulusmedia.com](http://www.cumulusmedia.com), and can be obtained without charge by written request to Richard S. Denning, Corporate Secretary, at our principal executive offices, 3280 Peachtree Road, N.W., Suite 2200, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. If we make any substantive amendments to this Code of Ethics, or if our Board of Directors grants any waiver, including any implicit waiver, from a provision thereof to our executive officers or directors, we will disclose the nature of such amendment or waiver, the name of the person to whom the waiver was granted and the date of the waiver in a Current Report on Form 8-K.

**SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**

In accordance with the rules of the SEC, if you wish to submit a proposal to be brought before the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders, we must receive your proposal by not later than December 1, 2019, in order for it to be included in our proxy materials relating to that meeting. Stockholder proposals must be accompanied by certain information concerning the proposal and the stockholder submitting it as more fully described in our By-laws. Proposals should be directed to Richard S. Denning, Corporate Secretary, at our principal executive offices, 3280 Peachtree Road, N.W., Suite 2200, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. To avoid disputes as to the date of receipt, it is suggested that any stockholder proposal be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested.

In addition, in accordance with our By-laws, for any proposal to be submitted by a stockholder for a vote at the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders, whether or not submitted for inclusion in our proxy statement, we must receive advance notice of such proposal not later than January 31, 2020. The proxy to be solicited on behalf of our Board of Directors for the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders may confer discretionary authority to vote on any such proposal received after that date.

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**A copy of the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 as required to be filed with the SEC has been provided concurrently with this proxy statement to all stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting. Stockholders may also obtain a copy of the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 without charge upon written request to: Corporate Secretary, Cumulus Media, Inc., 3280 Peachtree Road, N.W., Suite 2200, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. The proxy statement and the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 are available [www.cumulusmedia.com](http://www.cumulusmedia.com).**

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