

BOSTON PRIVATE FINANCIAL HOLDINGS INC

Form 424B7

January 31, 2011

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(7)

File No. 333-171599

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities, and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, dated January 31, 2011

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement

(To Prospectus dated January 28, 2011)

Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.

2,887,500 Warrants

Each to Purchase One Share of Common Stock

The United States Department of the Treasury, referred to in this prospectus supplement as the selling securityholder or Treasury, is offering to sell up to 2,887,500 warrants, each of which represents the right to purchase from us one share of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, at an exercise price of \$8.00 per share, referred to as the warrants. Both the exercise price and the number of shares that will be acquired upon the exercise of a warrant are subject to adjustment from time to time in the manner described in this prospectus supplement. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the warrants being sold by the selling securityholder. The warrants expire on November 21, 2018.

We originally issued the warrants to Treasury in a private placement in connection with our participation in the Capital Purchase Program under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the warrants. We have applied to list the warrants on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, or NASDAQ, under the symbol BPFHW. Our common stock is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol BPFH. On January 28, 2011, the last reported sale price of our common stock on NASDAQ was \$6.72 per share.

The public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering will be determined by an auction process. While the auction is open, potential bidders will be able to place bids at any price (in increments of \$0.05) at or above the minimum bid price of \$1.40 per warrant. The minimum size for any bid is 100 warrants. If the selling securityholder decides to sell the warrants being offered, the public offering price of the warrants will be equal to the clearing price set in the auction. If bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants, the clearing price will be equal to the highest price at which 100% of the offered warrants can be sold in the auction. If bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants and the selling securityholder elects to sell warrants in the auction, the selling securityholder must sell all of the offered warrants at the clearing price. If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the clearing price will be equal to the minimum bid price per warrant, and the selling securityholder may (but is not required to) sell, at the clearing price, as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of warrants for which bids were received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing. In certain cases described in this prospectus supplement, bidders may experience pro-ration of their bids. If bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling securityholder will not sell any warrants in this offering. Even if bids are received for all of the warrants, the selling securityholder may decide not to sell any warrants, regardless of the clearing price set in the auction process. In addition, we may bid in the auction for some or all of the warrants. The method for submitting bids and a more detailed description of this auction process are described in Auction Process beginning on page S-17 of this prospectus supplement.

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

Investing in our warrants and our common stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and page 6 of the accompanying base prospectus, and all subsequent filings under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, referred to as the Exchange Act, to read about factors you should consider before investing in our securities.

The warrants and the underlying common stock are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any of our bank or non-bank subsidiaries and are not guaranteed by the United States Department of the Treasury or insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Deposit Insurance Fund or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

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

	Per Warrant	Total
Public offering price	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to the selling securityholder	\$	\$

The underwriter expects to deliver the warrants in book-entry form only, through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, against payment on or about , 2011.

Deutsche Bank Securities

The date of this prospectus supplement is , 2011.

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	S-i
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-ii
<u>SUMMARY</u>	S-1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-5
<u>AUCTION PROCESS</u>	S-17
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	S-23
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-27
Prospectus	
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	2
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	2
<u>SUMMARY</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	18
<u>SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS</u>	25
<u>CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u>	27
<u>CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS</u>	34
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	36
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	38
<u>EXPERTS</u>	38
<u>INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	39
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	40
ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT	

You should rely only on the information contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and any relevant free writing prospectus we have filed or may file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Neither we nor any underwriter or agent or the selling securityholder has authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and any relevant free writing prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation to buy by anyone in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus, any relevant free writing prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate or complete as of any date other than the date of the applicable document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. The second part, the accompanying base prospectus, gives more general information. If the description of the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this prospectus, in any related prospectus and in information incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any related prospectus that are not historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and are intended to be covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. These statements, which are based on certain assumptions and describe our future plans, strategies and expectations, can generally be identified by the use of the words may, will, should, could, would, plan, potential, estimate, project, believe, intend, anticipate, expressions. These forward-looking statements include statements relating to our strategy, effectiveness of investment programs, evaluations of future interest rate trends and liquidity, expectations as to growth in assets, deposits and results of operations, receipt of regulatory approval for pending acquisitions, success of acquisitions, future operations, market position, financial position, and prospects, plans and objectives of management. You should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. You should exercise caution in interpreting and relying on forward-looking statements because they are subject to significant risks, uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond the Company's control.

Forward-looking statements are based on the current assumptions and beliefs of management and are only expectations of future results. Our actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements as a result of, among others, factors referenced herein under the section captioned Risk Factors; changes in assumptions or unanticipated factors adversely affecting the timing, among other matters, of expenses or cost savings relating to or resulting from the consolidation of our banking subsidiaries; adverse conditions in the capital and debt markets and the impact of such conditions on our private banking, investment management and wealth advisory activities; changes in interest rates; competitive pressures from other financial institutions; the effects of continuing deterioration in general economic conditions on a national basis or in the local markets in which we operate, including changes which adversely affect borrowers' ability to service and repay our loans; changes to the value of the securities in our investment portfolio; changes in loan default and charge-off rates; the adequacy of loan loss reserves; reductions in deposit levels necessitating increased borrowing to fund loans and investments; the adoption of adverse government regulation; increasing government regulation, such as the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010; the risk that goodwill and intangibles recorded in our financial statements will become impaired; risks related to the identification and implementation of acquisitions; and changes in assumptions used in making such forward-looking statements; as well as the other risks and uncertainties detailed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other filings submitted to the SEC. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. We do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

*The following summary contains basic information about the warrants, our common stock underlying the warrants and the auction process and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that may be important to you or that you should consider before deciding to purchase shares of our common stock, and is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or that is incorporated by reference herein. You should read the entire prospectus, especially the risks set forth under the heading **Risk Factors** in this prospectus, as well as the financial and other information incorporated by reference herein, before making an investment decision. For a more complete understanding of the warrants and our common stock, you should read the section of this prospectus entitled **Description of the Warrants** and the sections of the accompanying base prospectus entitled **Description of the Warrants** and **Description of Capital Stock**.*

*As used in this prospectus, the terms **Boston Private**, **the Company**, **we**, **our**, and **us** refer to Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc. and our consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context indicates otherwise; the **Banks** refers to Boston Private Bank & Trust Company, Borel Private Bank & Trust Company, First Private Bank & Trust and Charter Private Bank, collectively; the **Investment Managers** refers to Dalton, Greiner, Hartman, Maher & Co., LLC and Anchor Capital Holdings, LLC, collectively; and the **Wealth Advisors** refers to KLS Professional Advisors Group, LLC, Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough, LLC, and Davidson Trust Company. This prospectus includes our trademarks and other trade names identified herein. All other trademarks and trade names appearing in this prospectus are the property of their respective holders.*

Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.

Overview

We were incorporated on September 2, 1987, under the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On July 1, 1988, we registered with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the Federal Reserve Board, as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, or the BHC Act. We are a wealth management company that offers a full range of wealth management services to high net worth individuals, families, businesses, and select institutions through our three functional segments: Private Banking, Investment Management and Wealth Advisory. We seek to capitalize on growth in the wealth management sector by targeting affluent regions and offering localized service. We believe the high net worth market continues to be characterized by attractive demographics because of the strong rate of growth expected over the next decade in the number of high net worth individuals, growth in assets controlled by high net worth individuals, and the significant transition of wealth between generations. Our clients have complex financial situations and we seek to be their trusted advisor by offering wealth management solutions through a high-touch, relationship-driven approach.

Our approach to the wealth management market is to create a financial umbrella that helps to preserve, grow, and transfer assets over the financial lifetime of a client through three financial disciplines that correspond to our functional segments: private banking, investment management and wealth advisory. We conduct substantially all of our business through our three functional segments. Each functional segment reflects the services provided by us to a distinct segment of the wealth management markets as described below.

Our consolidated financial statements include our accounts and those of our wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries, which we also refer to as our consolidated affiliate partners. All of our bank affiliates are wholly-owned subsidiaries and, with the exception of KLS Professional Advisors Group, LLC, which became wholly-owned as of January 2010, our other investment management and wealth advisory affiliates are majority-owned. These majority-owned subsidiaries are consolidated in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or GAAP. The non-controlling interests are generally held by individuals who owned and ran the businesses prior to acquisition by us and who continue to be actively involved in those businesses.

Private Banking

The Private Banking segment has four consolidated affiliate partners: Boston Private Bank & Trust Company, chartered by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Borel Private Bank & Trust Company and First Private Bank & Trust, both California state chartered banks; and Charter Private Bank, a Washington state chartered bank. The Banks are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC. The Banks pursue private banking and community-oriented business strategies in their operating regions. The Banks are principally engaged in providing banking and a variety of other fiduciary services including investment management, advisory, and administrative services to high net worth individuals, their families, small and medium-sized businesses and professionals. In addition, the Banks offer their clients a broad range of deposit and lending products. The specific mix of products, services and clientele can vary from affiliate to affiliate.

Investment Management

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The Investment Management segment has two consolidated affiliate partners: Dalton, Greiner, Hartman, Maher & Co., LLC, a registered investment adviser, and Anchor Capital Holdings, LLC, which is the parent company of Anchor Capital Advisors LLC and Anchor/Russell Capital Advisors LLC, both of which are registered investment advisers. The Investment Managers serve the needs of pension funds, endowments, trusts, foundations and select institutions, mutual funds and high net worth individuals and their families throughout the United States and abroad. The Investment Managers specialize in value-driven equity portfolios with products across

S-1

Table of Contents

the capitalization spectrum. The specific mix of products, services and clientele varies among affiliates. The Investment Managers are located in New England and New York, with one affiliate administrative office in South Florida.

Wealth Advisory

The Wealth Advisory segment has three consolidated affiliate partners: KLS Professional Advisors Group, LLC, Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough, LLC, and Davidson Trust Company, or DTC, all of which are wealth management firms and, with the exception of DTC, registered investment advisers. The Wealth Advisors provide comprehensive, planning-based financial strategies to high net worth individuals and their families, and non-profit institutions. The firms offer fee-only financial planning, tax planning and preparation, estate and insurance planning, retirement planning, charitable planning and intergenerational giving planning. The Wealth Advisors manage investments covering a wide range of asset classes for both taxable and tax-exempt portfolios. The Wealth Advisors are located in New York, Northern California, and Pennsylvania.

Recent Developments

On January 27, 2011, we issued a press release announcing results for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2010. Further information relating to our financial results for the fourth quarter of 2010 is contained in the portion of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 27, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein.

The Offering

Issuer	Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.
Warrants offered by the selling securityholder	2,887,500 warrants, each of which represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, at an exercise price of \$8.00 per share (subject to adjustment). The number of warrants sold will depend on the number of bids received and whether the selling securityholder decides to sell any warrants in the auction process. The exercise price of the warrants cannot be paid in cash and is payable only by netting out a number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants with a market value equal to the aggregate exercise price of the warrants at the time of exercise. The warrants are currently exercisable and expire on November 21, 2018. See "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement.
Common stock outstanding after this offering	76,424,472 shares of common stock, based on the number of shares of common stock outstanding as of January 27, 2011. Unless otherwise indicated, the number of shares outstanding after this offering does not include shares issuable upon the exercise of the warrants offered by this prospectus supplement, 4,020,170 shares issuable upon the vesting or exercise of options or other rights outstanding as of January 27, 2011 under our stock-based compensation or incentive plans, 7,261,091 shares issuable upon the conversion of our Series B preferred stock outstanding as of January 27, 2011, 5,383,891 warrants, each of which represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock at an exercise price of \$6.62 per share (subject to adjustment), granted to BP Holdco, L.P., and 59,174 warrants, each of which represents the right to purchase one share of our common stock at an exercise price of \$8.90 per share (subject to adjustment), granted to BP Holdco, L.P. and assigned to John Morton.
Auction process	The selling securityholder and the underwriter will determine the public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering through an auction process conducted by Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., referred to as Deutsche Bank Securities, the sole book-running manager, in its capacity as the auction agent. The auction process will entail a modified Dutch auction mechanic in which bids may be submitted through the auction agent or one of the other brokers that is a member of the broker network, collectively referred to as the network brokers, established in connection with the auction process. Each broker will make suitability determinations with respect to its own customers wishing to participate in the auction process. The auction agent will not provide bidders, including us, if we decide to bid,

with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction

S-2

Table of Contents

trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction. We or our principal stockholders may bid, but we are not required to bid, in the auction for some or all of the warrants. We encourage you to discuss any questions regarding the bidding process and suitability determinations applicable to your bids with your broker. For more information about the auction process, see "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement.

Minimum bid price and price increments

The offering will be made using an auction process in which prospective purchasers are required to bid for the warrants. During the auction period, bids may be placed by qualifying bidders at any price (in increments of \$0.05) at or above the minimum bid price of \$1.40 per warrant. See "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement.

Minimum bid size

100 warrants

Submission deadline

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

Irrevocability of bids

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

Clearing price

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

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

If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, the clearing price will be equal to the minimum bid price of \$1.40 per warrant.

Unless the selling securityholder decides not to sell any warrants or as otherwise described below, the warrants will be sold to bidders at the clearing price. Even if bids are received for 100% or more of the warrants being offered, the selling securityholder may decide not to sell any warrants in the auction, regardless of the clearing price. If the selling securityholder decides to sell warrants in the auction, after the selling securityholder confirms its acceptance of the clearing price, and, in the case where bids are received for less than 100% of the warrants being offered, the number of warrants to be sold, the auction agent and each network broker that has submitted bids will notify successful bidders that the auction process has closed and that their bids have been accepted (subject in some cases to pro-rata, as described below). The clearing price and number of warrants being sold are also expected to be announced via press release prior to the opening of the equity markets on the business day following the end of the auction. See "Auction Process" in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Number of warrants to be sold	If bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants, then the selling securityholder may, but is not required to, sell at the minimum bid price in the auction process (which will be deemed the clearing price) as many warrants as it chooses to sell up to the number of warrants for which bids were received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered warrants are sold and the warrants remain eligible for listing. If bids are received for less than half of the offered warrants, the selling securityholder will not sell any warrants in this offering. Even if bids are received for all of the warrants, the selling securityholder may decide not to sell any warrants, regardless of the clearing price. If bids are received for all of the offered warrants and the selling securityholder elects to sell warrants in the auction process, the selling securityholder must sell all of the offered warrants. See Auction Process in this prospectus supplement.
Allocation; pro-ration	If bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling securityholder elects to sell warrants in the offering, then any bids submitted in the auction above the clearing price will receive allocations in full, while any bids submitted at the clearing price may experience pro-rata allocation. If bids for half or more, but fewer than all, of the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling securityholder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation. See Auction Process in this prospectus supplement.
Our participation in the auction	We are permitted to participate in the auction by submitting bids for the warrants. Although we are under no obligation to participate in the auction, if we elect to participate we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and will participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we will be required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on which the auction process is conducted (i.e., our final bids will be due 30 minutes before those of other bidders). You will not be notified by either the auction agent, the network brokers or the selling securityholder whether we have bid in the auction process or, should we elect to participate in the auction process, the terms of any bid or bids we may place.
Use of proceeds	We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of any of the warrants offered by the selling securityholder.
Risk factors	See Risk Factors and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus for a discussion of factors you should consider carefully before deciding to invest in the warrants.
Listing	We have applied to list the warrants on NASDAQ under the symbol BPFHW . Our common stock is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol BPFH .
Warrant agent	Computershare Trust Company, N.A.
Auction agent	Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.
Network brokers	See page S-19 for a list of brokers participating as network brokers in the auction process.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

*Your investment in the warrants involves risks. This prospectus supplement does not describe all of those risks. Before purchasing any of the warrants, you should carefully consider the following risk factors, which are specific to the auction process and our common stock, as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, including our financial statements and the notes thereto, before deciding whether an investment in the warrants is suitable for you. You should also carefully consider the risks described in the section **Risk Factors** contained in the accompanying base prospectus, in addition to the other information contained in this prospectus supplement, or incorporated by reference herein, before making an investment decision. The warrants are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about significant features of the warrants, our common stock or financial matters in general. The risks and uncertainties described below and incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of these risks actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially affected. In that case, the value of the warrants and our common stock could decline substantially.*

Risks Related to the Auction Process

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

The public offering price of the warrants, which will be the clearing price, will be determined through an auction process conducted by the selling securityholder and the auction agent. Although we have applied to list the warrants on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol BPFHW, prior to this offering there has been no public market for the warrants, and the public offering price may bear no relation to market demand for the warrants once trading begins. We have been informed by both Treasury and Deutsche Bank Securities, as the auction agent, that they believe that the bidding process will reveal a clearing price for the warrants offered in the auction, which will be either the highest price at which all of the warrants offered may be sold to bidders, if bids are received for 100% or more of the offered warrants, or the minimum bid price of \$1.40, if bids are received for half or more, but less than all, of the offered warrants. If there is little or no demand for the warrants at or above the public offering price once trading begins, then the price of the warrants would likely decline following this offering. Limited or less-than-expected liquidity in the warrants, including decreased liquidity due to a sale of less than all of the warrants being offered or a purchase of warrants by us in the auction, if any, could also cause the trading price of the warrants to decline. In addition, the auction process may lead to more volatility in, or a decline in, the trading price of the warrants after the initial sale of the warrants in this offering. If your objective is to make a short-term profit by selling warrants you purchased in this offering shortly after trading begins, you should not submit a bid in the auction.

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

Therefore, we caution investors that submitting successful bids and receiving allocations may be followed by a significant decline in the value of their investment in the warrants shortly after this offering.

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

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

We are permitted, but are not required, to participate in the auction for the warrants and, if we do, it could have the effect of raising the clearing price and decreasing liquidity in the market for the warrants.

We are permitted, but are not required, to submit bids in the auction. You will not be notified by the auction agent, the network brokers or the selling securityholder whether we have bid in the auction or, if we elect to participate in the auction, the terms of any bid or bids we may place. We will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and will participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we will be required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on which the auction is conducted (i.e., our final bids will be due 30 minutes before those of other bidders). In some cases, the submission of bids by us, if any, could cause the clearing price in the auction to be higher than it would otherwise have been (although in such a case we would still be required to purchase any warrants for which we had submitted bids at the clearing price). In addition, to the extent we purchase any warrants, the liquidity of any market for the warrants may decrease, particularly if these purchases represent a significant percentage of the outstanding warrants.

If this offering proceeds and is completed, we may from time to time repurchase and retire the warrants in open market purchases or on a privately negotiated basis. Any repurchases would also decrease liquidity in any market for the warrants.

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

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

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

Although the auction agent has established a minimum bid in connection with the auction, no maximum price or set price range has been implemented, meaning that there is no ceiling on the per-warrant amount that an investor can bid in the auction. If a bidder submits a market bid, which is a bid that specifies the number of warrants the bidder is willing to purchase without specifying the

Table of Contents

price it is willing to pay, that bid will be treated as a bid at the highest price received from any other bidder in the auction. Because market bids will increase the number of warrants that are covered by bids at the highest price received, the submission of market bids could cause the clearing price in the auction to be higher than it would otherwise have been absent any market bids. Since the only information being provided in connection with the auction is the minimum bid price and the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason, potential investors should carefully evaluate all factors that may be relevant about us, our operations, the warrants and the auction process in determining the appropriateness of any bids they may submit.

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

Each bidder may submit multiple bids. However, as bids are independent, each bid may result in an allocation of warrants. Allocation of the warrants will be determined by, first, allocating warrants to any bids made above the clearing price, and second, allocating warrants on a pro-rata basis among bids made at the clearing price. If bids for all the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling securityholder elects to sell warrants in the offering, the bids of successful bidders that are above the clearing price will be allocated all of the warrants represented by such bids, and only bids submitted at the clearing price will experience any pro-rata allocation. Bids that have not been modified or withdrawn by the time of the submission deadline are final and irrevocable, and bidders who submit successful bids will be obligated to purchase the warrants allocated to them. Accordingly, the sum of a bidder's bid sizes as of the submission deadline should be no more than the total number of warrants the bidder is willing to purchase, and we caution investors against submitting bids that do not accurately represent the number of warrants that they are willing and prepared to purchase.

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

Risks Related to Our Business and Our Common Stock

Our business and earnings have been adversely affected, and may continue to be adversely affected, by the U.S. and international financial market and economic conditions.

The performance of our business has been and may continue to be adversely affected by general business and economic conditions in the United States, including the level and volatility of short- and long-term interest rates, inflation, home prices, unemployment and under-employment levels, bankruptcies, household income, consumer spending, fluctuations in both debt and equity capital markets, liquidity of the global financial markets, the availability and cost of credit, investor confidence and the strength of the U.S. economy. Continued deterioration of any of these conditions can adversely affect our consumer and commercial businesses and securities portfolios, as well as our earnings. In 2010, continuing weak economic conditions in the United States continued to adversely affect our business and our earnings. While there are early indications that the U.S. economy is stabilizing, there remains significant uncertainty regarding the sustainability of the economic recovery, unemployment levels and the impact of the U.S. government's unwinding of its extensive economic and market support.

Our banking business is highly regulated, which could limit or restrict our activities and impose financial requirements or limitations on the conduct of our business.

Bank holding companies and banks operate in a highly regulated environment and are subject to supervision and examination by federal and state regulatory agencies. We are subject to the BHC Act and to regulation and supervision by the Federal Reserve Board. Our banking subsidiaries are subject to regulation and supervision by their respective federal and state regulatory agencies, which currently include the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks, the California Department of Financial Institutions, the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions and the FDIC.

Federal and state laws and regulations govern numerous matters including changes in the ownership or control of banks and bank holding companies, maintenance of adequate capital and the financial condition of a financial institution, permissible types, amounts and terms of extensions of credit and investments, permissible nonbanking activities, the level of reserves against deposits and restrictions on dividend payments. The FDIC, the California Department of Financial Institutions, the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions, and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks possess the power to issue cease and desist orders to prevent or remedy unsafe or unsound practices or violations of law by banks subject to their regulation, and the Federal Reserve Board possesses similar powers with respect to bank holding companies. These and other restrictions limit the manner in which we and our banking subsidiaries may conduct business and obtain financing.

Our banking business is also affected by the monetary policies of the Federal Reserve Board. Changes in monetary or legislative policies may affect the interest rates our banking subsidiaries must offer to attract deposits and the interest rates they must charge on their loans, as well as the manner in which they offer deposits and make loans. These monetary policies have had, and are expected to continue to have, significant effects on the operating results of depository institutions generally, including our banking subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

On July 21, 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or the Dodd-Frank Act, which comprehensively reforms the regulation of financial institutions, products and services, was signed into law. Among other things, the Dodd-Frank Act grants the Federal Reserve Board increased supervisory authority and codifies the source of strength doctrine. The Dodd-Frank Act also provides for new capital standards that eliminate the treatment of trust preferred securities as Tier 1 capital, however existing trust preferred securities are grandfathered for banking entities with less than \$15 billion of assets, such as Boston Private. The Dodd-Frank Act establishes the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, or the CFPB, as an independent bureau of the Federal Reserve Board. The CFPB has the authority to prescribe rules for all depository institutions governing the provision of consumer financial products and services, which may result in rules and regulations that reduce the profitability of such products and services or impose greater costs on us and our subsidiaries. Our banking subsidiaries will continue to be examined by their primary federal regulator for compliance with such rules.

The Dodd-Frank Act also permanently raises deposit insurance levels to \$250,000, retroactive to January 1, 2008. Pursuant to modifications under the Dodd-Frank Act, deposit insurance assessments will be calculated based on an insured depository institution's assets rather than its insured deposits and the minimum reserve ratio of the FDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund will be raised to 1.35%. The payment of interest on business demand deposit accounts is permitted by the Dodd-Frank Act. The Dodd-Frank Act authorizes the Federal Reserve Board to regulate interchange fees for debit card transactions and establishes new minimum mortgage underwriting standards for residential mortgages.

Because many aspects of the Dodd-Frank Act are subject to rulemaking and will take effect over several years, it is difficult to forecast the impact that such rulemaking will have on us, our customers or the financial industry. Certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act that affect deposit insurance assessments, the payment of interest on demand deposits and interchange fees could increase the costs associated with our banking subsidiaries' deposit-generating activities, as well as place limitations on the revenues that those deposits may generate. For example, the Federal Reserve Board has proposed rules governing debit card interchange fees that apply to institutions with greater than \$10 billion in assets. Market forces may effectively require all banks to adopt debit card interchange fee structures which comply with these rules, which will significantly reduce the fee income earned from debit card transactions.

Regulators may raise capital requirements above current levels in connection with the implementation of Basel III, the Dodd-Frank Act or otherwise, which may require us and our banking subsidiaries to hold additional capital which could limit the manner in which we and our banking subsidiaries conduct their business and obtain financing. Furthermore, the imposition of liquidity requirements in connection with the implementation of Basel III in the United States, or otherwise, could result in us and our banking subsidiaries having to lengthen the term of their funding, restructure their business models, and/or increase their holdings of liquid assets. If the federal banking agencies implement a capital conservation buffer and/or a countercyclical capital buffer, as proposed in Basel III, a failure by us or any of our banking subsidiaries to satisfy the applicable buffer's requirements would limit such institution's ability to make distributions, including paying out dividends or buying back shares.

We may incur significant losses as a result of ineffective risk management processes and strategies.

We seek to monitor and control our risk exposure through a risk and control framework encompassing a variety of separate but complementary financial, credit, operational, compliance and legal reporting systems, internal controls, management review processes and other mechanisms. While we employ a broad and diversified set of risk monitoring and risk mitigation techniques, those techniques and the judgments that accompany their application may not be effective and may not anticipate every economic and financial outcome in all market environments or the specifics and timing of such outcomes. Market conditions over the last several years have involved unprecedented dislocations and highlight the limitations inherent in using historical data to manage risk.

We may be unable to attract and retain key personnel.

Our success depends, in large part, on our ability to attract and retain key personnel. Competition for the best people can be intense and we may not be able to hire or retain the key personnel that we depend upon for success. The unexpected loss of services of one or more of our key personnel could have a material adverse impact on our business because of their skills, knowledge of the markets in which we operate, years of industry experience and the difficulty of promptly finding qualified replacement personnel.

Our ability to attract and retain customers and employees could be adversely affected to the extent our reputation is harmed.

Our ability to attract and retain customers and employees at our banking, investment management and wealth advisory subsidiaries could be adversely affected to the extent our reputation is damaged. Our actual or perceived failure to address various

Table of Contents

issues could give rise to reputational risk that could cause harm to us and our business prospects, including failure to properly address operational risks. These issues also include, but are not limited to, legal and regulatory requirements; privacy; properly maintaining customer and associate personal information; record keeping; money-laundering; sales and trading practices; ethical issues; appropriately addressing potential conflicts of interest; and the proper identification of the legal, reputational, credit, liquidity and market risks inherent in our products. Failure to appropriately address any of these issues could also give rise to additional regulatory restrictions, reputational harm and legal risks, which could, among other consequences, increase the size and number of litigation claims and damages asserted or subject us to enforcement actions, fines and penalties and cause us to incur related costs and expenses.

Our inability to realize expected benefits from reorganizations, acquisitions and divestitures could adversely affect our results.

Reorganizations and acquisitions involve various risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

we may lose key clients or employees;

the acquired or reorganized business may not perform in accordance with our expectations;

difficulties and expenses in connection with the integration of operations and personnel;

we may need to make significant investments in infrastructure, controls, staff, emergency backup facilities or other critical business functions that become strained by our growth;

potential diversion of our management's time and attention away from other aspects of our business; and

potential exposure to unknown or contingent liabilities of the acquired company.

With respect to our past divestitures, our business may be negatively impacted by the risk that our business reputation may be adversely impacted or the risk that a divestiture will not have the anticipated positive impact on our consolidated balance sheets, consolidated statements of operations, and consolidated statements of cash flows.

The market price and trading volume of our common stock may be volatile.

The market price of our common stock may be volatile. In addition, the trading volume in our common stock may fluctuate and cause significant price variations to occur. We cannot assure you that the market price of our common stock will not fluctuate or decline significantly in the future. Some of the factors that could negatively affect our share price or result in fluctuations in the price or trading volume of our common stock include:

quarterly variations in our operating results or the quality of our assets;

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

changes in expectations as to our future financial performance;

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announcements of innovations, new products, strategic developments, significant contracts, acquisitions and other material events by us or our competitors;

the operating and securities price performance of other companies that investors believe are comparable to us;

our past and future dividend practices;

future sales of our equity or equity-related securities; and

changes in global financial markets and global economies and general market conditions, such as interest or foreign exchange rates, stock, commodity or real estate valuations or volatility.

S-10

Table of Contents

Competition in the local banking industry may impair our ability to attract and retain banking customers at current levels.

Competition in the local banking industry coupled with our relatively small size may limit the ability of our private banking affiliate partners to attract and retain banking customers.

In particular, our banking subsidiaries' competitors include several major financial companies whose greater resources may afford them a marketplace advantage by enabling them to maintain numerous banking locations and mount extensive promotional and advertising campaigns. Additionally, banks and other financial institutions with larger capitalization and financial intermediaries not subject to bank regulatory restrictions have larger lending limits and are able to serve the credit and investment needs of larger customers. Areas of competition include interest rates for loans and deposits, efforts to obtain deposits, and range and quality of services provided. Our banking subsidiaries also face competition from out-of-state financial intermediaries which have opened low-end production offices or which solicit deposits in their respective market areas.

Because our banking subsidiaries maintain smaller staffs and have fewer financial and other resources than larger institutions with which they compete, they may be limited in their ability to attract customers. In addition, some of our banking subsidiaries' current commercial banking customers may seek alternative banking sources as they develop needs for credit facilities larger than our banking subsidiaries can accommodate.

If our banking subsidiaries are unable to attract and retain banking customers, they may be unable to continue their loan growth and their results of operations and financial condition may otherwise be negatively impacted.

Fluctuations in interest rates may negatively impact our banking business.

Fluctuations in interest rates may negatively impact the business of our banking subsidiaries. Our banking subsidiaries' main source of income from operations is net interest income, which is equal to the difference between the interest income received on interest-bearing assets (usually loans and investment securities) and the interest expense incurred in connection with interest-bearing liabilities (usually deposits and borrowings). These rates are highly sensitive to many factors beyond our control, including general economic conditions, both domestic and foreign, and the monetary and fiscal policies of various governmental and regulatory authorities. Our banking subsidiaries' net interest income can be affected significantly by changes in market interest rates. Changes in relative interest rates may reduce our banking subsidiaries' net interest income as the difference between interest income and interest expense decreases. As a result, our banking subsidiaries have adopted asset and liability management policies to minimize the potential adverse effects of changes in interest rates on net interest income, primarily by altering the mix and maturity of loans, investments funding sources, and derivatives. However, even with these policies in place, a change in interest rates can impact our results of operations or financial condition.

An increase in interest rates could also have a negative impact on our banking subsidiaries' results of operations by reducing the ability of borrowers to repay their current loan obligations, which could not only result in increased loan defaults, foreclosures and write-offs, but also necessitate further increases to the banking subsidiaries' allowances for loan losses. Fluctuations in interest rates, in certain circumstances, may also lead to high levels of loan prepayments, which may also have an adverse impact on our net interest income.

Our cost of funds for banking operations may increase as a result of general economic conditions, interest rates and competitive pressures.

Our banking subsidiaries have traditionally obtained funds principally through deposits and through borrowings. As a general matter, deposits are a cheaper source of funds than borrowings, because interest rates paid for deposits are typically less than interest rates charged for borrowings. Historically and in comparison to commercial banking averages, our banking subsidiaries have had a higher percentage of their time deposits in denominations of \$100,000 or more. Within the banking industry, the amounts of such deposits are generally considered more likely to fluctuate than deposits of smaller denominations. If, as a result of general economic conditions, market interest rates, competitive pressures or otherwise, the amount of deposits at our banking subsidiaries decreases relative to their overall banking operations, our banking subsidiaries may have to rely more heavily on borrowings as a source of funds in the future.

Table of Contents

Defaults in the repayment of loans may require additional loan loss reserves and negatively impact our banking business.

A borrower's default on its obligations under one or more of the banking subsidiaries' loans may result in lost principal and interest income and increased operating expenses as a result of the allocation of management time and resources to the collection and work-out of the loan.

In certain situations, where collection efforts are unsuccessful or acceptable work-out arrangements cannot be reached, our banking subsidiaries may have to write-off the loan in whole or in part. In such situations, the banking subsidiaries may acquire real estate or other assets, if any, which secure the loan through foreclosure or other similar available remedies. In such cases, the amount owed under the defaulted loan often exceeds the value of the assets acquired.

Our banking subsidiaries' management periodically makes a determination of an allowance for loan losses based on available information, including the quality of their loan portfolio, certain economic conditions, and the value of the underlying collateral and the level of its non-accruing and criticized loans. We rely on our loan quality reviews, our experience and our evaluation of economic conditions, among other factors, in determining the amount of provision required for the allowance for loan losses. Provisions to this allowance result in an expense for the period. If, as a result of general economic conditions, previously incorrect assumptions, or an increase in defaulted loans, management determines that additional increases in the allowance for loan losses are necessary, the banking subsidiaries will incur additional expenses.

If it is determined that a banking subsidiary should sell certain loans or a portfolio of loans, we are required to classify those loans as held for sale which requires us to carry such loans at the lower of cost or market. If we decide to sell loans at a time when the fair value of those loans is less than their carrying value, the adjustment will result in a loss. We may from time to time decide to sell particular loans or groups of loans, and the required adjustment could negatively affect our financial condition or results of operations.

In addition, bank regulatory agencies periodically review our banking subsidiaries' allowances for loan losses and the values they attribute to real estate acquired through foreclosure or other similar remedies. Such regulatory agencies may require the banking subsidiaries to adjust their determination of the value for these items. These adjustments could negatively impact our results of operations or financial condition.

Continued deterioration in local economies or real estate markets could negatively impact our banking business.

Our banking subsidiaries primarily serve individuals and smaller businesses located in four geographic regions: New England, Northern California, Southern California, and the Pacific Northwest. The ability of our banking subsidiaries' customers to repay their loans is impacted by the economic conditions in these areas.

Our banking subsidiaries' commercial loans are generally concentrated in the following customer groups:

real estate developers and investors;

financial service providers;

technology companies;

manufacturing and communications companies;

professional service providers;

general commercial and industrial companies; and

individuals.

Our banking subsidiaries' commercial loans, with limited exceptions, are secured by real estate (usually income producing residential and commercial properties), marketable securities or corporate assets (usually accounts receivable, equipment or inventory). Substantially all of our banking subsidiaries' residential mortgage and home equity loans are secured by residential

S-12

Table of Contents

property. Consequently, our banking subsidiaries' abilities to continue to originate real estate loans may be impaired by adverse changes in local and regional economic conditions in the real estate markets, or by acts of nature, including earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding. Due to the concentration of real estate collateral in the geographic regions in which we operate, these events could have a material adverse impact on the ability of our banking subsidiaries' borrowers to repay their loans and affect the value of the collateral securing these loans.

Environmental liability associated with commercial lending could result in losses.

In the course of business, our banking subsidiaries may acquire, through foreclosure, properties securing loans they have originated or purchased which are in default. Particularly in commercial real estate lending, there is a risk that hazardous substances could be discovered on these properties. In this event, we, or our banking subsidiaries, might be required to remove these substances from the affected properties at our sole cost and expense. The cost of this removal could substantially exceed the value of affected properties. We may not have adequate remedies against the prior owner or other responsible parties and could find it difficult or impossible to sell the affected properties. These events could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Prepayments of loans may negatively impact our banking business.

Generally, our banking subsidiaries' customers may prepay the principal amount of their outstanding loans at any time. The speed at which such prepayments occur, as well as the size of such prepayments, are within our customers' discretion. If customers prepay the principal amount of their loans, and we are unable to lend those funds to other borrowers or invest the funds at the same or higher interest rates, our interest income will be reduced. A significant reduction in interest income could have a negative impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

We may not be able to attract and retain investment management and wealth advisory clients at current levels due to competition.

Due to intense competition, our investment management and wealth advisory subsidiaries may not be able to attract and retain clients at current levels. Competition is especially strong in our geographic market areas, because there are numerous well-established and successful investment management and wealth advisory firms in these areas. Many of our competitors have greater resources than we have.

Our ability to successfully attract and retain investment management and wealth advisory clients is dependent upon our ability to compete with competitors' investment products, level of investment performance, client services and marketing and distribution capabilities. If we are not successful, our results of operations and financial condition may be negatively impacted.

For example, during the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, approximately 32% and 38%, respectively, of our segment revenues were derived from investment management and trust fees and wealth advisory contracts. Investment management contracts are typically terminable upon less than 30 days' notice. Most of our investment management clients may withdraw funds from accounts under management generally in their sole discretion. Wealth advisory client contracts must typically be renewed on an annual basis and are terminable upon relatively short notice. The combined financial performance of our investment management and wealth advisory affiliate partners is a significant factor in our overall results of operations and financial condition.

Our investment management business is highly dependent on people to produce investment returns and to solicit and retain clients.

We rely on our investment managers to produce investment returns. We believe that investment performance is one of the most important factors for the growth of our assets under management. Poor investment performance could impair our revenues and growth because existing clients might withdraw funds in favor of better performing products, which would result in lower investment management fees or our ability to attract funds from existing and new clients might diminish.

The market for investment managers is extremely competitive and is increasingly characterized by frequent movement of investment managers among different firms. In addition, our individual investment managers often have regular direct contact with particular clients, which can lead to a strong client relationship based on the client's trust in that individual manager. The loss of a key

Table of Contents

investment manager could jeopardize our relationships with our clients and lead to the loss of client accounts. Losses of such accounts could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

In addition to the risk of loss of key investment managers, our investment management business is dependent on the integrity of our asset managers and our employees. If an asset manager or employee were to misappropriate any client funds, the reputation of our asset management business could be negatively affected, which may result in the loss of accounts and have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our investment management business may be negatively impacted by changes in economic and market conditions.

Our investment management business may be negatively impacted by changes in general economic and market conditions because the performance of such business is directly affected by conditions in the financial and securities markets. The financial markets and businesses operating in the securities industry are highly volatile (meaning that performance results can vary greatly within short periods of time) and are directly affected by, among other factors, domestic and foreign economic conditions and general trends in business and finance, all of which are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that broad market performance will be favorable in the future. The world financial and securities markets will likely continue to experience significant volatility as a result of, among other things, world economic and political conditions. Declines in the financial markets or a lack of sustained growth may result in a corresponding decline in our performance and may adversely affect the assets that we manage.

In addition, our management contracts generally provide for fees payable for investment management services based on the market value of assets under management, although there are a portion of our contracts that provide for the payment of fees based on investment performance in addition to a base fee. Because most contracts provide for a fee based on market values of securities, fluctuations in securities prices may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our investment management and wealth advisory businesses are highly regulated, and the regulators have the ability to limit or restrict our activities and impose fines or suspensions on the conduct of our business.

Our investment management and wealth advisory businesses are highly regulated, primarily at the federal level. The failure of any of our subsidiaries that provide investment management and wealth advisory services to comply with applicable laws or regulations could result in fines, suspensions of individual employees or other sanctions including revocation of such subsidiary's registration as an investment adviser.

All of our investment managers and wealth advisory affiliate partners, except DTC, are registered investment advisers under the Investment Advisers Act. The Investment Advisers Act imposes numerous obligations on registered investment advisers, including fiduciary, record keeping, operational and disclosure obligations. These subsidiaries, as investment advisers, are also subject to regulation under the federal and state securities laws and the fiduciary laws of certain states. In addition, the affiliate partners acting as sub-advisers to mutual funds are subject to certain provisions and regulations of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

We are also subject to the provisions and regulations of ERISA to the extent that we act as a fiduciary under ERISA with respect to certain of our clients. ERISA and the applicable provisions of the federal tax laws, impose a number of duties on persons who are fiduciaries under ERISA and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of each ERISA plan which is a client, as well as certain transactions by the fiduciaries (and certain other related parties) to such plans.

In addition, applicable law provides that all investment contracts with mutual fund clients may be terminated by the clients, without penalty, upon no more than 60 days notice. Investment contracts with institutional and other clients are typically terminable by the client, also without penalty, upon 30 days notice.

Changes in these laws or regulations could have a material adverse impact on our profitability and mode of operations.

We may suffer losses as a result of operational risk or technical system failures.

The potential for operational risk exposure exists throughout our organization. Integral to our performance is the continued efficacy of our internal processes, systems, relationships with third parties and the associates and executives in our day-to-day and ongoing operations. Operational risk also encompasses the failure to implement strategic objectives in a successful, timely and cost-effective manner. Failure to properly manage operational risk subjects us to risks of loss that may vary in size, scale and scope,

Table of Contents

including loss of customers, operational or technical failures, unlawful tampering with our technical systems, ineffectiveness or exposure due to interruption in third party support, as well as the loss of key individuals or failure on the part of key individuals to perform properly. Although we seek to mitigate operational risk through a system of internal controls, losses from operational risk could take the form of explicit charges, increased operational costs, harm to our reputation or foregone opportunities.

Our financial statements are based in part on assumptions and estimates, which, if wrong, could cause unexpected losses in the future.

Pursuant to U.S. GAAP, we are required to use certain assumptions and estimates in preparing our financial statements, including in determining credit loss reserves, reserves related to litigation and the fair value of certain assets and liabilities, among other items. If assumptions or estimates underlying our financial statements are incorrect, we may experience material losses. For additional information, see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Critical Accounting Policies in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Changes in accounting standards can be difficult to predict and can materially impact how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations.

Our accounting policies and methods are fundamental to how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations. From time to time, the Financial Accounting Standards Board changes the financial accounting and reporting standards that govern the preparation of our financial statements. These changes can be hard to anticipate and implement and can materially impact how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations.

If we are required to write down goodwill and other intangible assets, our financial condition and results of operations would be negatively affected.

When we acquire a business, a substantial portion of the purchase price of the acquisition could be allocated to goodwill and other identifiable intangible assets. The amount of the purchase price which is allocated to goodwill is determined by the excess of the purchase price over the net identifiable assets acquired. Under current accounting standards, if we determine goodwill or intangible assets are impaired, we will be required to write down the value of these assets. We conduct an annual review to determine whether goodwill and other identifiable intangible assets are impaired.

Our goodwill and intangible assets are tested for impairment annually in the fourth quarter at the reporting unit level. In addition, an impairment test could be triggered between annual testing dates if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value below the carrying amount. Examples of those events or circumstances include the following:

significant adverse change in business climate;

significant decrease in stock price and/or market capitalization;

significant unanticipated loss of clients/assets under management;

loss of key personnel;

sustained periods of poor investment performance;

significant loss of deposits or loans;

significant reductions in profitability;

significant changes in loan credit quality;

S-15

Table of Contents

potential sale or disposal of an affiliate; and

adverse action or assessment by a regulator.

We have taken impairment charges at various times in 2007, 2008 and 2009. We cannot assure you that we will not be required to take further impairment charges in the future. Any impairment charge would have a negative effect on our stockholders' equity and financial results.

Our deferred tax assets may not ultimately be realized or our tax positions may be subject to challenge by the IRS.

Our deferred tax assets may provide significant future tax savings to us. Our use of these deferred tax benefits may depend on a number of factors including the ability of us to generate significant future taxable income; the character of that income (ordinary versus capital); the absence of a future ownership change of us that could limit or eliminate the tax benefits; the acceptance by the taxing authorities of the positions taken on our tax returns as to the amount and timing of our income and expenses; and future changes in laws or regulations relating to tax deductions and net operating losses.

We assess the likelihood that deferred tax assets will be realizable based on future taxable income and, if necessary, establish a valuation allowance for those deferred tax assets determined to not likely be realizable. Management judgment is required in determining the appropriate recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities, including projections of future taxable income, as well as the character of that income. There can be no absolute assurance however, that the net deferred assets will ultimately be realized.

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

We are a separate and distinct legal entity from our banking and nonbanking subsidiaries and depend on dividends, distributions and other payments from our banking and nonbanking subsidiaries to fund dividend payments on our common and preferred stock and to fund all payments on our other obligations. Many of our subsidiaries are subject to laws that authorize regulatory bodies to block or reduce the payment of cash dividends or other distributions from those subsidiaries to us. Regulatory action of that kind could impede access to funds we need to make payments on our obligations or dividend payments. Additionally, if our subsidiaries' earnings are not sufficient to make dividend payments to us while maintaining adequate capital levels, we may not be able to make dividend payments to our common and preferred stockholders. Furthermore, our right to participate in a distribution of assets upon a subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization is subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors.

Our stockholders may not receive dividends on the common stock.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends only when, as and if declared by our board of directors. Although we have historically declared cash dividends on our common stock, we are not required to do so and our board of directors may reduce or eliminate our common stock dividend in the future. Further, the Federal Reserve Board has issued guidelines for evaluating proposals by large bank holding companies to increase dividends or repurchase or redeem shares, which includes a requirement for such firms to develop a capital distribution plan. The Federal Reserve Board has indicated that it is considering expanding these requirements to cover all bank holding companies, which may in the future restrict our ability to pay dividends. A reduction or elimination of dividends could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Future capital offerings may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources or, if our or our banking subsidiaries' capital ratios fall below the required minimums, we or our banking subsidiaries could be forced to raise additional capital by making additional offerings of debt, common, or preferred equity securities, including medium-term notes, trust preferred securities, senior or subordinated notes and preferred stock. Upon liquidation, holders of our debt securities and shares of preferred stock and lenders with respect to other borrowings will receive distributions of our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock.

Additional equity offerings may dilute the holdings of our existing stockholders or reduce the market price of our common stock, or both. Although holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights or other protections against dilution, the terms of our Series B preferred stock do provide for certain anti-dilution adjustments. Because our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings.

Table of Contents

We cannot assure you that such capital will be available to us on acceptable terms or at all. Our inability to raise sufficient additional capital on acceptable terms when needed could adversely affect our businesses, financial condition and results of operations. Thus, our stockholders bear the risk of our future offerings reducing the market price of our common stock and diluting their stock holdings in us.

Anti-takeover provisions could negatively impact our stockholders.

Provisions of Massachusetts law and provisions of our articles of organization and by-laws could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us or have the effect of discouraging a third party from attempting to acquire control of us. We have a classified board of directors and as such it is subject to the provisions of Section 8.06(b) of the Massachusetts Business Corporation Act, which provides for certain anti-takeover provisions for public companies incorporated in Massachusetts. Additionally, our articles of organization authorize our board of directors to issue preferred stock without stockholder approval and such preferred stock could be issued as a defensive measure in response to a takeover proposal. These provisions could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us even if an acquisition might be in the best interest of our stockholders.

AUCTION PROCESS

The following describes the auction process used to determine the public offering price of the warrants. This process differs from methods traditionally used in other public underwritten offerings. The selling securityholder and the underwriter will determine the public offering price and the allocation of the warrants in this offering by an auction process conducted by the sole book-running manager, Deutsche Bank Securities, in its capacity as the auction agent. The auction process will involve a modified Dutch auction mechanic in which the auction agent (working with a number of other brokers) will receive and accept bids from bidders at either the minimum bid price of \$1.40 or at price increments of \$0.05 in excess of the minimum bid price. We or our principal stockholders may, but are not required to, bid in the auction for some or all of the warrants. After the auction closes and those bids become irrevocable, which will occur automatically at the submission deadline to the extent such bids have not been modified or withdrawn at that time, the auction agent will determine the clearing price for the sale of the warrants offered hereby and, if the selling securityholder chooses to proceed with the offering, the underwriter will allocate warrants to the winning bidders. The auction agent has reserved the right to round allocations to eliminate odd-lots. The clearing price for the warrants may bear little or no relationship to the price that would be established using traditional valuation methods. You should carefully consider the risks described under Risk Factors Risks Related to the Auction Process beginning on page S-5.

Eligibility and Account Status

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

we or our principal stockholders will be allowed, but are not required, to bid in the auction. If we do participate, we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and will participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we will be required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on which the auction is conducted (i.e., our final bids will be due 30 minutes before those of other bidders);

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

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

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

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the auction agent will not provide bidders, including us, if we decide to bid, with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction.

Neither the underwriter, the selling securityholder or we have undertaken any efforts to qualify the warrants for sale in any jurisdiction outside the United States. Except to the limited extent that this offering will be open to certain non-U.S. investors under private placement exemptions in certain countries other than the United States, investors located outside the United States should not expect to be eligible to participate in this offering.

S-18

Table of Contents

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

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

The Auction Process

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

General

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

During the auction period, bids may be placed at any price (in increments of \$0.05) at or above the minimum bid price of \$1.40 per warrant.

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

The Bidding Process

The auction agent and the network brokers will only accept bids in the auction at the minimum bid price and above the minimum bid price at increments of \$0.05.

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

Table of Contents

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

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

the number of warrants that you are interested in purchasing;

the price per warrant you are willing to pay; and

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

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

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

Conditions for valid bids, including eligibility standards and account funding requirements, may vary from broker to broker. Some brokers, for example, may require a prospective investor to maintain a minimum account balance or to ensure that its account balance is equal to or in excess of the amount of its bid. No funds will be transferred to the underwriter until the acceptance of the bid and the allocation of warrants.

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

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

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

The auction agent will not provide bidders, including us, if we decide to bid, with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction.

The auction agent or any network broker may require you to deposit funds or securities in your brokerage accounts with

S-20

Table of Contents

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

We or our principal stockholders will be allowed, but we are not required, to bid in the auction. If we decide to bid, we will not receive preferential treatment of any kind and will participate on the same basis as all other bidders, except that we will be required to submit any final bid we may enter by 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the day on which the auction is conducted (i.e., our final bids will be due 30 minutes before those of other bidders). You will not be notified by the auction agent, the network brokers or the selling securityholder whether we have bid in the auction or, if we elect to participate in the auction, the terms of any bid or bids we may place. We will be required to submit any bids we make through the auction agent. The submission of issuer bids may cause the clearing price in the auction to be higher than it would otherwise have been absent such bids.

Pricing and Allocation

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

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

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

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

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

100% or more of the number of warrants offered in this offering as disclosed on the cover of this prospectus supplement, referred to as the Number of Offered Warrants, then all warrants sold in the offering will be sold at the clearing price, unless the selling securityholder decides, in its sole discretion, not to sell any warrants in this offering after the clearing price has been determined;

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

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

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

S-21

Table of Contents

clearing price.

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

If bids for half or more, but fewer than all, of the warrants offered in this offering are received, and the selling securityholder chooses to sell fewer warrants than the number of warrants for which bids were received, then all bids will experience equal pro-rata allocation. In other words, each bid, not just those at the lowest bidding increment, will be allocated a number of warrants approximately equal to the pro-rata allocation percentage multiplied by the number of warrants represented by its bid, rounded to the nearest whole number of warrants; provided that bids at the clearing price that are pro-rated may be rounded to the nearest 100 warrants. In no case, however, will any rounded amount exceed the original bid size.

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

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

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

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

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

Auction Developments

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

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Potential Request for Reconfirmation. The auction agent may ask you to reconfirm your bid at its discretion by directly contacting you, or your broker if you submitted your bid through a broker other than the auction agent, although the auction agent is under no obligation to reconfirm bids for any reason. If you are requested to reconfirm a bid and fail to do so in a

S-22

Table of Contents

timely manner, then the auction agent may deem your bid to have been withdrawn. The auction agent may, however, choose to accept your bid even if it has not been reconfirmed.

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

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

UNDERWRITING

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

Underwriter	Number of Warrants
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriter to purchase the warrants offered by this prospectus supplement are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriter will purchase all of the warrants the selling securityholder determines to sell, if any are purchased. The number of warrants that the selling securityholder may determine to sell will depend, in part, upon the success of the auction process. See Auction Process The Auction Process Pricing and Allocation.

The underwriter plans to offer the warrants for sale pursuant to the auction process described above under Auction Process. Warrants sold by the underwriter to the public will be sold at the clearing price determined through that auction process. During the auction period, bids may be placed at any price (in increments of \$0.05) at or above the minimum bid price of \$1.40 per warrant. The offering of the warrants by the underwriter is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriter’s right to reject any order in whole or in part. As described under Auction Process, the selling securityholder may decide not to sell any warrants, regardless of the clearing price set in the auction process.

The underwriting discounts and commissions are the greater of (i) \$150,000 and (ii) 1.4% of the aggregate public offering price of the warrants. The selling securityholder has agreed to pay the underwriter the following discounts and commissions;

	Paid by the Selling Securityholder	Paid by BPFH
Per Warrant	\$	\$ 0
Total	\$	\$ 0

We estimate that our share of the total expenses of the offering, including registration, filing and listing fees, printing fees and legal and accounting expenses, will be approximately \$210,000.

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

Each of our executive officers and directors has agreed, subject to certain specified exceptions, not to offer, sell, pledge, contract to sell or otherwise dispose of, or enter into any transaction that is designed to, or could be expected to, result in the disposition of any warrants or shares of our common stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of our common stock or derivatives of our warrants or our common stock owned by these persons prior to this offering or common stock issuable upon exercise of options or warrants held by these persons during the period from the date of this prospectus supplement continuing through the date 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, except with the prior written consent of the underwriter. Any

Table of Contents

such consent may be given at any time without public notice. We have entered into a similar agreement with the underwriter with respect to the period from the date of this prospectus supplement continuing through the date 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, which can only be waived with the prior written consent of the underwriter, except that without such consent we may, among other things, (i) issue common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for common stock in connection the exercise of options, warrants and securities outstanding on the date hereof, (ii) sell or distribute equity securities and/or options or other rights in respect thereof solely registered on Form S-3 (with respect to our stock-based compensation or incentive plans), S-4 or S-8 (or any successor form), (iii) grant and issue shares of equity securities and/or options or other rights in respect thereof pursuant to stock-based compensation or incentive plans, (iv) issue common stock in connection with dividend reinvestment plans or employee stock purchase plans and (v) issue common stock in connection with any court order or decree. The Securities Purchase Agreement with Treasury contains similar but more restrictive lock-up provisions. There are no agreements between either the underwriter or the selling securityholder and us or any of our stockholders or affiliates releasing us or them from these lock-up agreements prior to the expiration of the 45-day period.

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

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

The underwriter and its affiliates have, from time to time, provided, and may in the future provide, various investment banking and financial advisory services to us and to the selling securityholder, for which it received or will receive customary fees and expenses. Deutsche Bank Securities has agreed to provide various services to Treasury in connection with sales of the warrants of certain financial institutions (as defined in the EESA) in connection with offerings of those warrants to be conducted as public auctions, pursuant to which Deutsche Bank Securities is entitled to an administrative fee of \$250,000 and a minimum commitment fee of up to \$10 million for services performed during the two-year commitment period (subject to reduction by the amount of any underwriting compensation received by Deutsche Bank Securities in connection with completed auctions). The commitment fee (as so reduced) generally is payable only at the end of that two-year period.

Selling Restrictions

The underwriter has represented and agreed that it has not and will not offer, sell or deliver the warrants, directly or indirectly, or distribute this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus or any other offering material relating to the warrants, in any jurisdiction except under circumstances that will result in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and that will not impose any obligations on us except as set forth in the underwriting agreement.

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive, each referred to as a Relevant Member State, an offer to the public of any warrants and the underlying shares of common stock, which are subject to the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, may not be made except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any such warrants and the underlying shares of common stock may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

(a) to legal entities that are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

Table of Contents

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

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

(d) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of warrants and the underlying shares of common stock referred to in (a) to (d) above shall result in a requirement for the publication by us or the underwriter of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3(1) of the Prospectus Directive.

Each purchaser of the warrants described in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus located within a Relevant Member State will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that it is a qualified investor within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in relation to any securities in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and any warrants to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for any warrants, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Hong Kong

The underwriter has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, referred to as Hong Kong, by means of any document, any warrants other than (i) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong, or the SFO, and any rules made under the SFO; or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong, or the CO, or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the CO; and

(b) it has not issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, and will not issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the warrants or the underlying shares of common stock, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to warrants that are or are intended to be disposed of (i) only to persons outside Hong Kong or (ii) only to professional investors as defined in the SFO and any rules made under the SFO.

Singapore

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

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

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

a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the

S-25

Table of Contents

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

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

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

where the transfer is by operation of law.

United Arab Emirates

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Arab Emirates (excluding the Dubai International Financial Centre)

The warrants and the underlying shares of common stock which are subject to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus have not been, and are not being, publicly offered, sold, promoted or advertised in the United Arab Emirates other than in compliance with the laws of the United Arab Emirates. Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre should have regard to the specific notice to investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre set out in this prospectus supplement. The information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus does not constitute a public offer of securities in the United Arab Emirates in accordance with the Commercial Companies Law (Federal Law No. 8 of 1984 of the United Arab Emirates, as amended) or otherwise and is not intended to be a public offer. Neither this prospectus supplement nor the accompanying base prospectus has been approved by or filed with the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, the Emirates Securities and Commodities Authority or the Dubai Financial Services Authority. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, you should consult an authorized financial adviser. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are provided for the benefit of the recipient only, and should not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

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

United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are being distributed in the United Kingdom in a private placement only to, and are directed only at, qualified investors as defined in section 86 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, or the FSMA, or under other circumstances which do not require the publication of a prospectus pursuant to section 85(1) of the FSMA (all such persons together being referred to for purposes of this paragraph of the restriction under United

Table of Contents

Kingdom as Relevant Persons). This prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are directed only at Relevant Persons and must not be acted on or relied on by persons who are not Relevant Persons. Any invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity as defined in section 21 of the FSMA will only be communicated or caused to be communicated under circumstances in which Article 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are only being distributed to and are only directed at (a) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (b) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, or the Order, or (c) high net worth companies, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to for purposes of this paragraph of the restriction under United Kingdom as Relevant Persons). The offered warrants and the underlying shares of common stock are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such warrants will be engaged in only with, Relevant Persons. Any person who is not a Relevant Person should not act or rely on this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus or any of their contents.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the warrants to be offered in this offering will be passed upon for us by Goodwin Procter LLP, and for the underwriter by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. Sullivan & Cromwell LLP will rely on the opinion of Goodwin Procter LLP as to certain matters of Massachusetts law. Certain legal matters in connection with the offering will be passed upon for the underwriter by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP.

S-27

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.

2,887,500 Warrants

Each to Purchase One Share of Common Stock

This prospectus relates to resales of warrants to purchase our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, issued to the United States Department of the Treasury, which we refer to as Treasury or the selling securityholder. We refer to the warrants as the warrants. As used in this prospectus, the term Securities shall mean the warrants and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants. The Securities may be resold from time to time by and for the account of the selling securityholder.

The methods of resale of the Securities offered hereby are described under the heading Plan of Distribution. We will receive no proceeds from any such resales.

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the trading symbol BPFH. The last reported sale price of the common stock on January 28, 2011 was \$6.72 per share. We intend to list the warrants on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

Each warrant entitles the holder to purchase one share of our common stock, \$1.00 par value (subject to adjustment), at an initial exercise price of \$8.00 per share (subject to adjustment). Unless exercised, the warrants will automatically expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on November 21, 2018.

We are registering the Securities for resale by the selling securityholder or its pledgees, donees, assigns, transferees or other successors in interest. The Securities are being registered to permit the selling securityholder to sell the Securities from time to time in the public market or otherwise, in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. The selling securityholder may sell the Securities through ordinary brokerage transactions or through any other means described in the section entitled Plan of Distribution beginning on page 36.

Investing in the Securities involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 6 of this prospectus.

The Securities are not deposits or obligations of a bank or savings association and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

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

The date of this prospectus is January 28, 2011.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	2
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	2
<u>SUMMARY</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	18
<u>SELLING SECURITYHOLDER</u>	25
<u>CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u>	27
<u>CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS</u>	34
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	36
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	38
<u>EXPERTS</u>	38
<u>INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	39
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	40

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under which the selling securityholder named under the caption "Selling Securityholder" in this prospectus and as supplemented by any accompanying prospectus supplement may sell the Securities described in this prospectus from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of those Securities. A prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

You should rely only on the information contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any relevant free writing prospectus we have filed or may file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. The information in this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement may be accurate only as of the date of the document.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this prospectus, in any related prospectus and in information incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any related prospectus that are not historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and are intended to be covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. These statements, which are based on certain assumptions and describe our future plans, strategies and expectations, can generally be identified by the use of the words may, will, should, could, would, plan, potential, estimate, intend, anticipate, expect, target and similar expressions. These forward-looking statements include statements relating to our strategy, effectiveness of investment programs, evaluations of future interest rate trends and liquidity, expectations as to growth in assets, deposits and results of operations, receipt of regulatory approval for pending acquisitions, success of acquisitions, future operations, market position, financial position, and prospects, plans and objectives of management. You should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. You should exercise caution in interpreting and relying on forward-looking statements because they are subject to significant risks, uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond the Company's control.

Forward-looking statements are based on the current assumptions and beliefs of management and are only expectations of future results. Our actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements as a result of, among others, factors referenced herein under the section captioned "Risk Factors"; changes in assumptions or unanticipated factors adversely affecting the timing, among other matters, of expenses or cost savings relating to or resulting from the consolidation of our banking subsidiaries; adverse conditions in the capital and debt markets and the impact of such conditions on our private banking, investment management and wealth advisory activities; changes in interest rates; competitive pressures from other financial institutions; the effects of continuing deterioration in general economic conditions on a national basis or in the local markets in which we operate, including changes which adversely affect borrowers' ability to service and repay our loans; changes to the value of the securities in our investment portfolio; changes in loan default and charge-off rates; the adequacy of loan loss reserves; reductions in deposit levels necessitating increased borrowing to fund loans and investments; the adoption of adverse government regulation; increasing government regulation, such as the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010; the risk that goodwill and intangibles recorded in our financial statements will become impaired; risks related to the identification and implementation of acquisitions; and changes in assumptions used in making such forward-looking statements; as well as the other risks and uncertainties detailed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other filings submitted to the SEC. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. We do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

The following summary may not contain all the information that may be important to you or that you should consider before deciding to purchase shares of our common stock, and is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or that is incorporated by reference herein. You should read the entire prospectus, especially the risks set forth under the heading Risk Factors in this prospectus, as well as the financial and other information incorporated by reference herein, before making an investment decision.

As used in this prospectus, the terms Boston Private, the Company, we, our, and us refer to Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc. and our consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context indicates otherwise; the Banks refers to Boston Private Bank & Trust Company, Borel Private Bank & Trust Company, First Private Bank & Trust and Charter Private Bank, collectively; the Investment Managers refers to Dalton, Greiner, Hartman, Maher & Co., LLC and Anchor Capital Holdings, LLC, collectively; and the Wealth Advisors refers to KLS Professional Advisors Group, LLC, Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough, LLC, and Davidson Trust Company. This prospectus includes our trademarks and other trade names identified herein. All other trademarks and trade names appearing in this prospectus are the property of their respective holders.

Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.

Overview

We were incorporated on September 2, 1987, under the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On July 1, 1988, we registered with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the Federal Reserve Board, as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, or the BHC Act. We are a wealth management company that offers a full range of wealth management services to high net worth individuals, families, businesses, and select institutions through our three functional segments: Private Banking, Investment Management and Wealth Advisory. We seek to capitalize on growth in the wealth management sector by targeting affluent regions and offering localized service. We believe the high net worth market continues to be characterized by attractive demographics because of the strong rate of growth expected over the next decade in the number of high net worth individuals, growth in assets controlled by high net worth individuals, and the significant transition of wealth between generations. Our clients have complex financial situations and we seek to be their trusted advisor by offering wealth management solutions through a high-touch, relationship-driven approach.

Our approach to the wealth management market is to create a financial umbrella that helps to preserve, grow, and transfer assets over the financial lifetime of a client through three financial disciplines that correspond to our functional segments: private banking, investment management and wealth advisory. We conduct substantially all of our business through our three functional segments. Each functional segment reflects the services provided by us to a distinct segment of the wealth management markets as described below.

Our consolidated financial statements include our accounts and those of our wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries, which we also refer to as our consolidated affiliate partners. All of our bank affiliates are wholly-owned subsidiaries and, with the exception of KLS Professional Advisors Group, LLC, which became wholly-owned as of January 2010, our other investment management and wealth advisory affiliates are majority-owned. These majority-owned subsidiaries are consolidated in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or GAAP. The non-controlling interests are generally held by individuals who owned and ran the businesses prior to acquisition by us and who continue to be actively involved in those businesses.

Table of Contents

Private Banking

The Private Banking segment has four consolidated affiliate partners: Boston Private Bank & Trust Company, chartered by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Borel Private Bank & Trust Company and First Private Bank & Trust, both California state chartered banks; and Charter Private Bank, a Washington state chartered bank. The Banks are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or the FDIC. The Banks pursue private banking and community-oriented business strategies in their operating regions. The Banks are principally engaged in providing banking and a variety of other fiduciary services including investment management, advisory, and administrative services to high net worth individuals, their families, small and medium-sized businesses and professionals. In addition, the Banks offer their clients a broad range of deposit and lending products. The specific mix of products, services and clientele can vary from affiliate to affiliate.

Investment Management

The Investment Management segment has two consolidated affiliate partners: Dalton, Greiner, Hartman, Maher & Co., LLC, a registered investment adviser, and Anchor Capital Holdings, LLC, which is the parent company of Anchor Capital Advisors LLC and Anchor/Russell Capital Advisors LLC, both of which are registered investment advisers. The Investment Managers serve the needs of pension funds, endowments, trusts, foundations and select institutions, mutual funds and high net worth individuals and their families throughout the United States and abroad. The Investment Managers specialize in value-driven equity portfolios with products across the capitalization spectrum. The specific mix of products, services and clientele varies among affiliates. The Investment Managers are located in New England and New York, with one affiliate administrative office in South Florida.

Wealth Advisory

The Wealth Advisory segment has three consolidated affiliate partners: KLS Professional Advisors Group, LLC, Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough, LLC, and Davidson Trust Company, or DTC, all of which are wealth management firms and, with the exception of DTC, registered investment advisers. The Wealth Advisors provide comprehensive, planning-based financial strategies to high net worth individuals and their families, and non-profit institutions. The firms offer fee-only financial planning, tax planning and preparation, estate and insurance planning, retirement planning, charitable planning and intergenerational giving planning. The Wealth Advisors manage investments covering a wide range of asset classes for both taxable and tax-exempt portfolios. The Wealth Advisors are located in New York, Northern California, and Pennsylvania.

Our core strategy is to offer financial services to the high net worth market, with a particular emphasis on the newly affluent, at each stage of the typical financial life cycle. In the early stages, these services typically involve forms of debt products, including residential jumbo mortgages or commercial loans to privately owned businesses. In the latter stages, we offer asset management services and, in between, we offer financial planning services such as tax planning, estate planning, and asset allocation consulting. We believe that our affluent clients respond to localized relationship management and take comfort in having their trusted financial advisor within close proximity. By keeping local management in place and giving them the autonomy to run their businesses with centralized support and oversight from our management team, we maintain the benefit of an affiliate's local reputation while leveraging our expertise. Through this strategy, we believe our affiliates are better able to build high-touch, service-oriented relationships with our clients.

Table of Contents

Our address is Ten Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 and our telephone number at that location is (617) 912-1900. You can find additional information regarding Boston Private in Boston Private's filings with the SEC referenced in the section of this document titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 40.

The Resales

Securities Offered by Selling

Securityholder

2,887,500 warrants, each to purchase one share of common stock.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol BPFH. We intend to list the warrants on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

Use of Proceeds

We will not receive any proceeds from the resale of the Securities by the selling securityholder.

Risk Factors

For a discussion of risks and uncertainties involved with an investment in the Securities, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page 6 of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

*Your investment in the warrants involves risks. This prospectus does not describe all of those risks. Before purchasing any of the warrants, you should carefully consider the following risk factors, which are specific to the warrants, as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including our financial statements and the notes thereto, before deciding whether an investment in the warrants is suitable for you. You should also carefully consider the risks described in the section **Risk Factors** contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, as updated by our subsequent **Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q**, which have been filed with the SEC and incorporated herein by reference, in addition to the other information contained in this prospectus, in any applicable prospectus supplement, or incorporated by reference herein, before making an investment decision. The warrants are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about significant features of the warrants, our common stock or financial matters in general. The risks and uncertainties described below and incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of these risks actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially affected. In that case, the value of the warrants and our common stock could decline substantially.*

Risks Related to the Warrants

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

On January 28, 2011, the last reported price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$6.72 per share. This is less than the exercise price. In order for you to recover the value of your investment in the warrants, either a trading market must develop for the warrants and the trading price of the warrants must exceed the public offering price, or our stock price must be more than the sum of the exercise price of the warrants (\$8.00) and the clearing price of the warrants.

The warrants are exercisable only until November 21, 2018. Generally, the amount of time until expiration is a component of the value of option securities such as the warrants and, as the amount of time until the expiration of the warrants decreases, the market price of the warrants will, holding other variables constant, likely decline. In the event our common stock price does not increase to the level discussed above during the period when the warrants are exercisable, you will likely not be able to recover the value of your investment in the warrants. In addition, as long as our common stock price is below the exercise price of the warrants, the warrants may not have any value and may expire without being exercised, in which case you will lose your entire investment. There can be no assurance that the trading price of our common stock will exceed the exercise price or the price required for you to achieve a positive return on your investment. Furthermore, upon exercise of the warrants, you will receive a number of shares of stock calculated based on the closing price of our common stock on that day. Accordingly, the number of shares and the value of the common stock you receive upon exercise of the warrants will depend on the market price of our common stock on the day on which you choose to exercise those warrants.

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

the number of holders of the warrants;

our performance;

the market for similar securities;

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

the market price of our common stock.

In addition, many of the risks that are described elsewhere in this Risk Factors section and in the Risk Factors sections of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, as updated by our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for each of the quarters ended March 31, 2010, June 30, 2010 and September 30, 2010, could materially and adversely affect the price of the warrants.

The warrants are not suitable for all investors.

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

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

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

The market price of the warrants will be directly affected by the market price of our common stock, which may be volatile.

To the extent a secondary market develops for the warrants, the market price of our common stock will significantly affect the market price of the warrants. This may result in greater volatility in the market price of the warrants than would be expected for warrants to purchase securities other than common stock. The market price of our common stock could be subject to significant fluctuations due to factors described in the Risk Factors section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, as updated by our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for each of the quarters ended March 31, 2010, June 30, 2010 and September 30, 2010, and we cannot predict how shares of our common stock will trade in the future. Increased volatility could result in a decline in the market price of our common stock, and, in turn, in the market price of the warrants. The price of our common stock could also be affected by possible sales of common stock by investors who view the warrants as a more attractive means of equity participation in us and by hedging or arbitrage activity involving our common stock. The hedging or arbitrage of our common stock could, in turn, affect the market price of the warrants.

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

Additionally, the exercise price of, and the number of shares underlying, the warrants will not be adjusted for any regular quarterly cash dividends that are in the aggregate less than or equal to \$0.01 per share of common stock, which is the amount of the last dividend per share declared prior to the date on which the warrants were originally issued to Treasury on November 21, 2008. Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our board of directors may declare, and our board of directors, in its sole discretion, may decide to increase the quarterly dividend on our common stock at any time.

Recent governmental actions regarding short sales may adversely affect the market value of the warrants.

Governmental actions that interfere with the ability of warrant investors to effect short sales of our common stock could significantly affect the market value of the warrants. Such government actions could make the arbitrage strategy that certain warrant investors employ more difficult to execute for the outstanding warrants offered hereby. At an open meeting on February 24, 2010 the SEC adopted a new short sale price test, which will take effect through an amendment to Rule 201 of Regulation SHO. Beginning on November 10, 2010, the new Rule 201 will restrict short selling only when a stock price has triggered a circuit breaker by falling at least 10 percent in one day, at which point short sale orders can be displayed or executed only if the order price is above the current national best bid, subject to certain limited exceptions. If such new price test precludes warrant investors from executing the arbitrage strategy that they employ or other limitations are instituted by the SEC or any other regulatory agencies, the market value of the warrants could be adversely affected. The warrant agreement does not contain any provisions to afford holders protection in the event of a decline in the market value of the warrants due to such new price test or other limitations, and warrant holders will not be entitled to any exercise price reduction or increase to the number of underlying shares except under the limited circumstances described in Description of the Warrants in this prospectus.

The warrants do not automatically exercise, and any warrant not exercised on or prior to the expiration date will expire unexercised.

The warrants do not automatically exercise upon expiration. You are entitled to exercise the full number of warrants registered in your name or any portion thereof. Any warrant that you do not exercise prior to the expiration date will expire unexercised and you will not receive any shares of our common stock.

Table of Contents

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

Your return on the warrants will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned shares of our common stock and received any dividends paid on our common stock other than to the extent described below under Description of the Warrants Adjustments to the Warrants.

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

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

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

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

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

In the event we undergo a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange or similar transaction requiring the approval of our stockholders, each referred to as a business combination, each warrantholder's right to receive our common stock under the terms of the warrants will be converted into the right to receive a number of shares of stock or other securities or property (including cash) which would have been received if such warrantholder had exercised the warrants immediately prior to such business combination. Any such business combination could substantially affect the value of the warrants by changing the securities received upon exercise of the warrants or fixing the market value of the property to be received upon exercise of the warrants. Warrantholders will not receive any additional shares of our common stock or other compensation representing any lost value resulting from any decrease in the duration of the exercise period for, or change in the securities or property (including cash) underlying, the warrants resulting from any such business combination.

Table of Contents

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

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

You may be subject to tax upon an adjustment to the number of shares of our common stock underlying the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants even though you do not receive a corresponding cash distribution.

The number of shares of our common stock underlying the warrants and the exercise price of the warrants are subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. To the extent any such adjustment or failure to adjust results in an increase in your proportionate interest in our assets or our earnings and profits, you will (subject to certain exceptions) be deemed to have received for U.S. federal income tax purposes a taxable dividend to the extent deemed paid out of our earnings and profits without the receipt of any cash. If you are a Non-U.S. Holder, such deemed dividend generally will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax (currently at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable treaty), which may be set off against shares of our common stock to be delivered upon exercise of warrants. See Certain United States Federal Income Tax Consequences in this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the resale of the Securities by the selling securityholder.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS

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

Common Stock Subject to the Warrants

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

Exercise of the Warrants

The initial exercise price applicable to each warrant is \$8.00 per share of common stock for which the warrant may be exercised. The warrants may be exercised in whole or in part at any time or from time to time on or before 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on November 21, 2018 by delivery to the warrant agent of the warrant and a completed notice of exercise attached as an annex to the warrant and the payment of the exercise price per share for the shares of common stock for which the warrants are being exercised. The exercise price cannot be paid in cash. The exercise price will be paid by the withholding by us of a number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants with a market value equal to the aggregate exercise price of the warrants so exercised, determined by reference to the closing price of our common stock on the trading day on which the warrants are exercised and notice is delivered to the warrant agent. The exercise price applicable to the warrants is subject to adjustment as described below under the heading Adjustments to the Warrants. So long as the warrants are in global form, any exercise notice will be delivered to the warrant agent through and in accordance with the procedures of the depository for the warrants.

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

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

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol BPFH. We intend to list the warrants on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

Table of Contents

Rights as a Stockholder

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

Adjustments to the Warrants

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

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

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

Table of Contents

In the case of a pro rata repurchase of common stock. A pro rata repurchase is defined as any purchase of shares of our common stock by us or any of our affiliates pursuant to any tender offer or exchange offer subject to Section 13(e) or 14(e) of the Exchange Act, or Regulation 14E thereunder, or any other offer available to substantially all holders of our common stock. If we effect a pro rata repurchase of our common stock, then the exercise price will be reduced to the price determined by multiplying the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the effective date (as defined below) of such pro rata repurchase by a fraction of which (A) the numerator will be (i) the product of (x) the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately before such pro rata repurchase and (y) the market price of a share of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the first public announcement by us or any of our affiliates of the intent to effect such pro rata repurchase, minus (ii) the aggregate purchase price of the pro rata repurchase, and (B) the denominator will be the product of (i) the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to such pro rata repurchase minus the number of shares of our common stock so repurchased and (ii) the market price per share of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the first public announcement by us or any of our affiliates of the intent to effect such pro rata repurchase. The number of warrant shares will be increased to the number obtained by multiplying the number of warrant shares immediately prior to such adjustment by the quotient of (x) the exercise price in effect immediately prior to the pro rata repurchase giving rise to the adjustment divided by (y) the new exercise price as determined in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence. For the avoidance of doubt, no increase to the exercise price or decrease in the number of warrant shares deliverable upon exercise of a warrant will be made pursuant to this adjustment provision.

The effective date of a pro rata repurchase means (a) the date of acceptance of shares for purchase or exchange by us under any tender offer or exchange offer that is a pro rata repurchase or (b) the date of purchase of any pro rata repurchase that is not a tender offer or an exchange offer.

In the case of a business combination or a reclassification of our common stock. In the event of any business combination or a reclassification of our common stock (other than a reclassification referenced in the first bullet point above), a warrant holder's right to receive warrant shares will be converted into the right to exercise that warrant to acquire the number of shares of stock or other securities or property (including cash) which our common stock issuable (at the time of such business combination or reclassification) upon exercise of such warrant immediately prior to such business combination or reclassification would have been entitled to receive upon consummation of such business combination or reclassification. In determining the kind and amount of stock, securities or the property receivable upon exercise of a warrant following the consummation of such business combination, if the holders of our common stock have the right to elect the kind or amount of consideration receivable upon consummation of such business combination, then the consideration that a warrant holder will be entitled to receive upon exercise will be deemed to be the types and amounts of consideration received by the majority of all holders of the shares of our common stock that affirmatively make an election (or of all such holders if none make an election). For purposes of determining any amount of warrant shares to be withheld by us as payment of the exercise price from stock, securities or the property that would otherwise be delivered to a warrant holder upon exercise of warrants following any business combination, the amount of such stock, securities or property to be withheld will have a market price equal to the aggregate exercise price as to which such warrants are so exercised, based on the fair market value of such stock, securities or property on the trading day on which such warrants are exercised and notice is delivered to the warrant agent. If any such property is not a security, the market price of such property will be deemed to be its fair market value as determined in good faith by our board of directors in reliance on an opinion of a nationally recognized independent investment banking firm retained by us for this purpose. If making such determination requires the conversion of any currency other than U.S. dollars into U.S. dollars, such conversion will be done in accordance with customary procedures based on the rate for conversion of such currency into U.S. dollars displayed on the relevant page by Bloomberg L.P. (or any successor or replacement service) on or by 4:00 p.m., New York City time, on such exercise date.

Table of Contents

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

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

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

For purposes of these adjustment provisions:

ordinary cash dividends means a regular quarterly cash dividend on shares of our common stock out of surplus or net profits legally available therefor (determined in accordance with GAAP in effect from time to time). Ordinary cash dividends will not include any cash dividends paid subsequent to November 21, 2008 to the extent the aggregate per share dividends paid on our outstanding common stock in any quarter exceed \$0.01, as adjusted for any stock split, stock dividend, reverse stock split, reclassification or similar transaction.

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

Table of Contents

Amendment

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

Description of the Warrant Agreement

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

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

Governing Law

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

Table of Contents

Book-Entry Issuance

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

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

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

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

We will make any payments on warrants represented by a global warrant to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner and holder of the global warrant representing those securities. DTC has advised us that upon receipt of any payment on a global warrant, DTC will immediately credit accounts of DTC participants with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that warrant, as shown in the records of DTC. Standing instructions and customary practices will govern payments by DTC participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global warrant held through those DTC participants, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. Those payments will be the sole responsibility of those DTC participants, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements in effect from time to time.

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

Any global warrant that is exchangeable for warrants in definitive form as described under Description of the Warrant Agreement, above, will be exchangeable in whole for warrants in definitive form. The registrar will register the certificated warrants in the name or names instructed by DTC. We expect that those instructions may be based upon directions received by DTC from DTC participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the global warrant.

Table of Contents

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

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

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

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

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

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

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Our authorized capital stock consists of 170,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, and 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. The Series B Non-Cumulative Perpetual Contingent Convertible Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value (the Series B Preferred Stock) and Series B-1 Non-Cumulative Perpetual Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the Series B-1 Preferred Stock), are the only authorized classes or series of our preferred stock as of the date of this prospectus. The following is a description of the material terms and provisions of our capital stock. It may not contain all the information that is important to you. Therefore, you should read our articles of organization and by-laws which have been filed with the SEC.

Common Stock

General

Under our articles of organization, we have authority, without further stockholder action, to provide for the issuance of up to 170,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share. We may amend our articles of organization from time to time to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock. Any such amendment would require the approval of the holders of a majority of our stock entitled to vote. Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol BPFH.

Rank

The Series B Preferred Stock and Series B-1 Preferred Stock are senior to the common stock as to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding-up and dissolution of the Company.

Dividends

Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock, holders of shares of our common stock will be entitled to receive dividends, if and when they are authorized and declared by the Board of Directors, out of assets that we may legally use to pay dividends.

Voting Rights

Except as otherwise required by law and except as provided by the terms of any other class or series of stock, holders of common stock have the exclusive power to vote on all matters presented to our stockholders, including the election of directors. Holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share. There is no cumulative voting in the election of our directors, which means that, subject to any rights to elect directors that are granted to the holders of any class or series of preferred stock, a plurality of the votes cast at a meeting of stockholders at which a quorum is present is sufficient to elect a director.

Preemptive Rights

Holders of our common stock do not have preemptive rights under the Massachusetts Business Corporation Law, our articles of organization or by-laws.

Liquidation/Dissolution Rights

In the event the Company is liquidated, dissolved or the Company's affairs are wound up, and subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock, holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive, in cash or in kind, in proportion to their holdings, the assets that we may legally use to pay distributions after we pay or make adequate provisions for all of our debts and liabilities.

Transfer Agent

The transfer agent and registrar for the common stock is Computershare Inc., in Canton, Massachusetts.

Table of Contents

Series B Preferred Stock

General

The following summary of the terms and provisions of the Series B Preferred Stock does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the pertinent sections of the Company's articles of organization.

Rank

The Series B Preferred Stock, with respect to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding-up and dissolution, ranks on a parity with the Series B-1 Preferred Stock and with each other class or series of preferred stock established after the date of issuance of the Series B Preferred Stock, the terms of which expressly provide that such class or series will rank on a parity with the Series B Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding-up and dissolution of the Company and senior to the common stock and each other class or series of capital stock of the Company the terms of which do not expressly provide that it ranks on a parity with or senior to the Series B Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding-up and dissolution of the Company.

Dividends

Holders of Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors, non-cumulative cash dividends in the amount determined as set forth below.

If the Board of Directors declares and pays a cash dividend in respect of any shares of our common stock, then the Board of Directors is required to declare and pay to the holders of the Series B Preferred Stock a cash dividend in an amount per share of Series B Preferred Stock equal to the product of (i) the per share dividend declared and paid in respect of each share of common stock and (ii) the number of shares of common stock into which such share of Series B Preferred Stock is then convertible. Dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock are non-cumulative.

Liquidation Preference

In the event the Company voluntarily or involuntarily liquidates, dissolves or winds up, the holders of the Series B Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive liquidating distributions in the amount of \$100,000 per share of Series B Preferred Stock, plus an amount equal to any declared but unpaid dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock to and including the date of such liquidation before any distribution of assets is made to the holders of the common stock or any other junior securities. After payment of the full amount of such liquidating distributions, holders of the Series B Preferred Stock will be entitled to participate in any further distribution of the remaining assets of the Company as if each share of Series B Preferred Stock had been converted, immediately prior to such liquidating distributions, into the number of shares of common stock equal to the liquidation preference divided by the then-applicable conversion price.

In the event the assets of the Company available for distribution to stockholders upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the affairs of the Company, whether voluntary or involuntary, are insufficient to pay in full the amounts payable with respect to all outstanding shares of the Series B Preferred Stock and the corresponding amounts payable on any parity securities, holders of Series B Preferred Stock and the holders of parity securities will share ratably in any distribution of assets of the Company in proportion to the full respective liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

Table of Contents

Conversion

Holders of shares of Series B Preferred Stock have the right to convert the Series B Preferred Stock at any time. The number of shares of common stock into which a share of Series B Preferred Stock will be convertible will be determined by dividing the liquidation preference by the conversion price, subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments. No fractional shares of common stock will be issued. Upon conversion, cash will be paid in lieu of fractional shares based on the closing price of the common stock determined as of the second trading day immediately preceding the date of conversion. The initial conversion price of the Series B Preferred Stock is \$5.52 per share.

The conversion right of holders of Series B Preferred Stock is limited to the extent that no conversion of Series B Preferred Stock is permitted if it would cause the holder and its affiliates, collectively, to be deemed to own, control or have the power to vote, for purposes of the BHC Act or the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended or the CIBC Act, and any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, 10% or more of any class of voting securities (as defined in the BHC Act and any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder) of the Company outstanding at such time.

Redemption

The Series B Preferred Stock will not be subject to any mandatory redemption, sinking fund or similar provisions. Holders of the Series B Preferred Stock will have no right to require redemption.

Anti-Dilution Adjustments

The conversion price of the Series B Preferred Stock is also subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments, except that any adjustments to the conversion price shall be made to the extent (but only to the extent) that such adjustments would not cause or result in any holder and its affiliates, collectively, to be deemed to own, control or have the power to vote, for purposes of the BHC Act or the CIBC Act and any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, 25% or more of any class of voting securities (as defined in the BHC Act and any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder) of the Company outstanding at such time. Any such adjustment (or portion thereof) shall be postponed and implemented on the first date on which such implementation would not contravene the condition described in the foregoing sentence.

Fundamental Change

In the event the Company enters into a transaction constituting a consolidation or merger of the Company or similar transaction, any sale or other transfer of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, any reclassification of the common stock into securities including securities other than common stock or any statutory exchange of the outstanding shares of common stock for securities of another entity (each, a Reorganization Event), each share of Series B Preferred Stock outstanding immediately prior to such Reorganization Event shall remain outstanding but shall become convertible, at the option of the holders, into the kind of securities, cash and other property receivable in such Reorganization Event by a holder (other than a counterparty to the Reorganization Event or an affiliate of such other party) of the number of shares of common stock into which each share of Series B Preferred Stock would then be convertible.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights

Except as set forth below, holders of the Series B Preferred Stock will not have any voting rights, including the right to elect any directors.

So long as any shares of Series B Preferred Stock are outstanding, the vote or consent of the holders of 66 2/3% of the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock, voting as a single class with all other classes and series of parity securities having similar voting rights and with each series or class having a number of votes proportionate to the aggregate liquidation preference of the outstanding shares of such class or series, will be necessary for effecting or validating any of the following actions, whether or not such approval is required by Massachusetts law:

any amendment, alteration or repeal of any provision of the Company's articles of organization or the Company's by-laws that would alter or change the voting powers, preferences or special rights of the Series B Preferred Stock so as to affect them adversely;

any amendment or alteration of the Company's articles of organization to authorize or create, or increase the authorized amount of, any shares of, or any securities convertible into shares of, any class or series of the Company's capital stock ranking prior to the Series B Preferred Stock in the payment of dividends or in the distribution of assets on any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company; or

the consummation of a binding share exchange or reclassification involving the Series B Preferred Stock or a merger or consolidation of the Company with another entity, except that holders will have no right to vote under this provision or under any provision of Massachusetts law if (x) the Series B Preferred Stock remains outstanding or, in the case of any such merger or consolidation with respect to which the Company is not the surviving or resulting entity, is converted into or exchanged for preference securities of the surviving or resulting entity or its ultimate parent, that is an entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof or the District of Columbia, and (y) such Series B Preferred Stock remaining outstanding or such preference securities, as the case may be, have such rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, taken as a whole, as are not materially less favorable to the holders thereof than the rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers of the Series B Preferred Stock, taken as a whole.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase in the amount of the authorized or issued preferred stock or any securities convertible into preferred stock or the creation and issuance, or an increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any other series of preferred stock (including the Series B Preferred Stock), or any securities convertible into preferred stock ranking equally with and/or junior to the Series B Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends (whether such dividends are cumulative or non-cumulative) and/or the distribution of assets upon the Company's liquidation, dissolution or winding up will not, in and of itself, be deemed to adversely affect the voting powers, preferences or special rights of the Series B Preferred Stock and, notwithstanding any provision of Massachusetts law, the holders will have no right to vote solely by reason of such an increase, creation or issuance.

If an amendment, alteration, repeal, share exchange, reclassification, merger or consolidation described above would adversely affect one or more but not all series of preferred stock with like voting rights (including the Series B Preferred Stock for this purpose), then only the series affected and entitled to vote will vote as a class in lieu of all such series of preferred stock.

Table of Contents

Series B-1 Preferred Stock

General

The following summary of the terms and provisions of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the pertinent sections of the Company's articles of organization. The Series B-1 Preferred Stock is identical to the Series B Preferred Stock, except for the elimination of certain conversion and anti-dilution adjustment limitations.

Rank

The Series B-1 Preferred Stock, with respect to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding-up and dissolution, ranks on a parity with the Series B Preferred Stock and with each other class or series of preferred stock established after the date of issuance of the Series B Preferred Stock, the terms of which expressly provide that such class or series will rank on a parity with the Series B-1 Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding-up and dissolution of the Company and senior to the common stock and each other class or series of capital stock of the Company the terms of which do not expressly provide that it ranks on a parity with or senior to the Series B-1 Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and rights on liquidation, winding-up and dissolution of the Company.

Dividends

Holders of Series B-1 Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors, non-cumulative cash dividends in the amount determined as set forth below.

If the Board of Directors declares and pays a cash dividend in respect of any shares of our common stock, then the Board of Directors is required to declare and pay to the holders of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock a cash dividend in an amount per share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock equal to the product of (i) the per share dividend declared and paid in respect of each share of common stock and (ii) the number of shares of common stock into which such share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock is then convertible. Dividends on the Series B-1 Preferred Stock are non-cumulative.

Liquidation Preference

In the event the Company voluntarily or involuntarily liquidates, dissolves or winds up, the holders of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive liquidating distributions in the amount of \$100,000 per share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock, plus an amount equal to any declared but unpaid dividends on the Series B-1 Preferred Stock to and including the date of such liquidation before any distribution of assets is made to the holders of the common stock or any other junior securities. After payment of the full amount of such liquidating distributions, holders of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock will be entitled to participate in any further distribution of the remaining assets of the Company as if each share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock had been converted, immediately prior to such liquidating distributions, into the number of shares of common stock equal to the liquidation preference divided by the then-applicable conversion price.

Table of Contents

In the event the assets of the Company available for distribution to stockholders upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the affairs of the Company, whether voluntary or involuntary, are insufficient to pay in full the amounts payable with respect to all outstanding shares of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock and the corresponding amounts payable on any parity securities, holders of Series B-1 Preferred Stock and the holders of parity securities will share ratably in any distribution of assets of the Company in proportion to the full respective liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

Conversion

Holders of shares of Series B-1 Preferred Stock have the right to convert the Series B-1 Preferred Stock at any time. The number of shares of common stock into which a share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock will be convertible will be determined by dividing the liquidation preference by the conversion price, subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments. No fractional shares of common stock will be issued. Upon conversion, cash will be paid in lieu of fractional shares based on the closing price of the common stock determined as of the second trading day immediately preceding the date of conversion. The initial conversion price of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock is \$5.52 per share.

Redemption

The Series B-1 Preferred Stock will not be redeemable either at the Company's option or at the option of the holders thereof at any time.

Anti-Dilution Adjustments

The conversion price of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock is also subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments.

Fundamental Change

In the event the Company enters into a transaction constituting a Reorganization Event, each share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock outstanding immediately prior to such Reorganization Event shall remain outstanding but shall become convertible, at the option of the holders, into the kind of securities, cash and other property receivable in such Reorganization Event by a holder (other than a counterparty to the Reorganization Event or an affiliate of such other party) of the number of shares of common stock into which each share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock would then be convertible.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights

Except as set forth below, holders of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock will not have any voting rights, including the right to elect any directors.

So long as any shares of Series B-1 Preferred Stock are outstanding, the vote or consent of the holders of 66²/3% of the outstanding shares of Series B-1 Preferred Stock, voting as a single class with all other classes and series of parity securities having similar voting rights and with each series or class having a number of votes proportionate to the aggregate liquidation preference of the outstanding shares of such class or series, will be necessary for effecting or validating any of the following actions, whether or not such approval is required by Massachusetts law:

any amendment, alteration or repeal of any provision of the Company's articles of organization or the Company's by-laws that would alter or change the voting powers, preferences or special rights of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock so as to affect them adversely;

any amendment or alteration of the Company's articles of organization to authorize or create, or increase the authorized amount of, any shares of, or any securities convertible into shares of, any class or series of the Company's capital stock ranking prior to the Series B-1 Preferred Stock in the payment of dividends or in the distribution of assets on any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company; or

the consummation of a binding share exchange or reclassification involving the Series B-1 Preferred Stock or a merger or consolidation of the Company with another entity, except that holders will have no right to vote under this provision or under any provision of Massachusetts law if (x) the Series B-1 Preferred Stock remains outstanding or, in the case of any such merger or consolidation with respect to which the Company is not the surviving or resulting entity, is converted into or exchanged for preference securities of the surviving or resulting entity or its ultimate parent, that is an entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof or the District of Columbia, and (y) such Series B-1 Preferred Stock remaining outstanding or such preference securities, as the case may be, have such rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, taken as a whole, as are not materially less favorable to the holders thereof than the rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock, taken as a whole.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase in the amount of the authorized or issued preferred stock or any securities convertible into preferred stock or the creation and issuance, or an increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any other series of preferred stock (including the Series B-1 Preferred Stock), or any securities convertible into preferred stock ranking equally with and/or junior to the Series B-1 Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends (whether such dividends are cumulative or non-cumulative) and/or the distribution of assets upon the Company's liquidation, dissolution or winding up will not, in and of itself, be deemed to adversely affect the voting powers, preferences or special rights of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock and, notwithstanding any provision of Massachusetts law, the holders will have no right to vote solely by reason of such an increase, creation or issuance.

If an amendment, alteration, repeal, share exchange, reclassification, merger or consolidation described above would adversely affect one or more but not all series of preferred stock with like voting rights (including the Series B-1 Preferred Stock for this purpose), then only the series affected and entitled to vote will vote as a class in lieu of all such series of preferred stock.

Table of Contents**SELLING SECURITYHOLDER**

On November 21, 2008, we issued to Treasury a warrant to purchase 2,887,500 shares of our common stock together with shares of our preferred stock pursuant to a securities purchase agreement between us and Treasury for such warrant and preferred stock, referred to as the Securities Purchase Agreement. Treasury acquired the warrant and shares of our preferred stock as part of the Troubled Assets Relief Program, or TARP. TARP was established pursuant to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, or the EESA, which was enacted into law on October 3, 2008 in response to the financial crisis. EESA requires the Secretary of the Treasury to acquire warrants in connection with certain purchases from a financial institution, subject to certain exceptions. The warrants being offered were acquired when Treasury acquired our preferred stock on November 21, 2008. On January 13, 2010, we redeemed \$50 million of the preferred stock issued to Treasury as part of TARP, and on June 16, 2010, we redeemed the remaining \$104 million of the preferred stock issued to Treasury as part of TARP. We are registering the warrants (and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants) offered by this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement on behalf of Treasury as the selling securityholder.

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

The table below sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of the warrants held as of January 7, 2011 by the selling securityholder, the number of warrants being offered hereby, and information with respect to warrants to be beneficially owned by the selling securityholder assuming all the warrants offered hereby are sold.

Selling securityholder	Number of warrants beneficially owned prior to this offering	Number of warrants offered in this offering	Number of warrants to be beneficially owned following this offering
United States Department of the Treasury	2,887,500	2,887,500	0

The warrants currently are exercisable for 2,887,500 shares of our common stock, which represented approximately 3.8% of our common stock outstanding as of January 7, 2011 (however, because the warrants must be exercised on a cashless basis, we will withhold from an exercising warrant holder a number of shares with a value equal to the aggregate exercise price as payment for the exercise of the warrants). The actual number of shares that could be issued upon exercise of the warrants will depend upon the market price of our common stock at the time of exercise and other factors, including the adjustment provisions described above under Description of the Warrants Adjustments to the Warrants, and cannot be determined at this time. Other than the warrants, Treasury does not own any of our equity securities.

Table of Contents

Our operations are regulated by various U.S. governmental authorities, including in certain respects by the selling securityholder. Other than the Securities Purchase Agreement, we have no material contractual relationships with the selling securityholder. Purchasers of the warrants will have no rights under the Securities Purchase Agreement.

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

Governmental Immunity

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

Table of Contents

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations concerning the ownership, exercise and disposition of the warrants and ownership of the common stock received upon exercising the warrants. The following discussion is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations. This discussion is based on current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, referred to as the Code, Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, judicial opinions, published positions of the Internal Revenue Service, referred to as the IRS, and other applicable authorities, all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect). This discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular holder in light of that holder's individual circumstances, nor does it address any aspects of U.S. federal estate and gift, state, local, or non-U.S. taxes. This discussion may not apply, in whole or in part, to particular holders in light of their individual circumstances or to holders subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws (such as insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions, brokers or dealers in securities, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, holders that hold our common stock as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated investment, holders who actually or constructively own or have owned five percent or more of the total value of our common stock, and certain U.S. expatriates).

If a partnership (or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds the warrants and/or our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partners of a partnership holding the warrants and/or our common stock should consult their tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to them.

This summary is directed solely to holders that hold the warrants or our common stock as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code, which generally means as property held for investment.

THIS SUMMARY IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO CONSTITUTE A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF ALL TAX CONSEQUENCES FOR HOLDERS RELATING TO THE OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF THE WARRANTS AND OUR COMMON STOCK. PROSPECTIVE HOLDERS OF THE WARRANTS AND OUR COMMON STOCK SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM (INCLUDING THE APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF ANY STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN INCOME AND OTHER TAX LAWS) OF THE OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF OUR WARRANTS AND COMMON STOCK.

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

a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate, the income of which is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or

a trust if (a) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (b) such trust has made a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes. a trust (a) if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over your administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all your substantial decisions or (b) you have in effect a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Table of Contents

You are a non-U.S. holder if you are a beneficial owner of a warrant and/or common stock that is not a U.S. holder and is not a partnership or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Warrants

U.S. Holders

Sale of a Warrant

In general, if you are a U.S. holder of a warrant, you will recognize gain or loss upon the sale of the warrant in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale and your adjusted tax basis in the warrant. Your initial tax basis in a warrant will be the purchase price. Gain or loss attributable to the sale of a warrant will generally be capital gain or loss. Capital gain of a noncorporate U.S. holder is generally taxed at preferential rates where the U.S. holder has a holding period greater than one year. The gain or loss will generally be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes.

Exercise of the Warrants

The U.S. federal income tax consequences of the exercise of warrants that require net share settlement are not entirely clear. Exercise of the warrants may be treated as a non-recognition event (except with respect to any cash received in lieu of a fractional share), either because (i) the warrants are treated as options to receive a variable number of shares of our common stock with no exercise price or (ii) the exchange of warrants for stock pursuant to net share settlement is treated as a recapitalization. In either case, a U.S. holder's tax basis in the common stock received would equal the U.S. holder's tax basis in the warrants, less any amount attributable to any fractional share. If the warrants are treated as options, the holding period of common stock received upon the exercise of a warrant will commence on the day after a warrant is exercised. If the exchange of warrants for stock pursuant to net share settlement is treated as a recapitalization, the holding period of common stock received upon the exercise of a warrant will include the U.S. holder's holding period for the warrant.

It is also possible that exercise of the warrants could be treated as a taxable exchange in which gain or loss would be recognized. The amount of gain or loss recognized on such exchange and its character as short-term or long-term would depend on the characterization of that exchange. If a U.S. holder is treated as selling a portion of the warrants or underlying shares of our common stock for cash that is used to pay the exercise price for the warrants, the amount of gain or loss will be the difference between that exercise price and such U.S. holder's basis attributable to the warrants or shares of our common stock deemed to have been sold. If the U.S. holder is treated as selling warrants, such U.S. holder would have long-term capital gain or loss if it has held the warrants for more than one year. If the U.S. holder is treated as selling underlying shares of our common stock, such U.S. holder would have short-term capital gain or loss. In either case, a U.S. holder of a warrant would also recognize gain or loss in respect of the cash received in lieu of a fractional share of our common stock otherwise issuable upon exercise in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and the portion of such U.S. holder's tax basis attributable to such fractional share. The ability of U.S. holders to deduct capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

Alternatively, if the U.S. holder is treated as exchanging, in a taxable exchange, the warrants for shares of our common stock received on exercise, the amount of gain or loss will be the difference between (1) the fair market value of our common stock and cash in lieu of fractional shares received on exercise and (2) the holder's basis in the warrants. In that case, the U.S. holder would have long-term capital gain or loss if it has held the warrants for more than one year and such U.S. holder will have a tax basis in the shares of our common stock received equal to their fair market value.

Table of Contents

Due to the absence of authority on the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the exercise of warrants that require net share settlement, there can be no assurance which, if any, of the alternative tax consequences and holding periods described above would be adopted by the IRS or a court. Accordingly, U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of the exercise of the warrants.

Expiration of the Warrants

Upon the expiration of the warrants, a U.S. holder will recognize a loss equal to the adjusted tax basis of the warrants. Such loss will generally be a capital loss and will be a long-term capital loss if the warrant has been held for more than one year on the date of expiration. The ability of U.S. holders to deduct capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

Adjustments Under the Warrants

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

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

Non-U.S. Holders

Sale or Exercise of the Warrants

Subject to the discussions below regarding recent legislation and backup withholding, if you are a non-U.S. holder, you generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain recognized on the sale, exchange or other disposition or upon the exercise of your warrants unless:

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

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

we are or have been at any time during the applicable period a United States real property holding corporation, which we refer to as a USRPHC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If you are a corporate non-U.S. holder, effectively connected gains that you recognize may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at 30% or at a lower rate if you are eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty that provides for a lower rate. We believe we are not, and have not been, a USRPHC, and we do not expect to become a USRPHC. A USRPHC is generally a U.S. corporation whose U.S. real property assets represent 50% or more of the sum of its worldwide real property and other business assets.

Table of Contents

Adjustments Under the Warrants

Any deemed dividends resulting from certain adjustments, or failure to make adjustments, to the conversion rate (see U.S. Holders Adjustments Under the Warrants above) will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a 30% rate (or lower applicable income tax treaty rate). In the case of any constructive dividend, it is possible that this tax would be withheld from any amount owed to you, including, but not limited to, shares of our common stock delivered upon exercise of the warrants. However, deemed dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States (and, where an applicable tax treaty requires, are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment) are not subject to this withholding tax, but instead are subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at applicable graduated individual or corporate rates. Certain certification requirements and disclosure requirements must be complied with in order for effectively connected income to be exempt from withholding. Any such effectively connected income received by a foreign corporation may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate (or lower applicable income tax treaty rate).

Common Stock

U.S. Holders

Distributions

In general, distributions with respect to our common stock will constitute dividends to the extent made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. If a distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of your tax basis in our common stock and thereafter as capital gain from the sale or exchange of such common stock. Dividends received by a corporate U.S. holder will be eligible for the dividends-received deduction if the corporate U.S. holder meets certain holding period and other applicable requirements. Dividends received by a non-corporate U.S. holder in tax years beginning before January 1, 2013 will qualify for taxation at long-term capital gain rates if the non-corporate U.S. holder meets certain holding period and other applicable requirements.

Sale or Other Disposition of Common Stock

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

Non-U.S. Holders

Distributions

In general, any distributions we make to a non-U.S. holder with respect to its shares of our common stock that are dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% of the gross amount, unless the non-U.S. holder is eligible for a reduced rate of withholding tax under an applicable tax treaty and the non-U.S. holder provides proper certification of its eligibility for such reduced rate. A distribution is a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Any distribution that is not a dividend will first reduce the adjusted basis in the non-U.S. holder's shares of our common stock and, to the extent it exceeds the adjusted basis in the non-U.S. holder's shares of our common stock, as gain from the sale or exchange of such stock.

Table of Contents

Dividends we pay to a non-U.S. holder that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business within the United States (and, where an applicable tax treaty requires, are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment) will not be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax, as described above, if the non-U.S. holder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements. Instead, such dividends generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis, in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a resident of the United States. Dividends received by a foreign corporation that are effectively connected with its conduct of trade or business within the United States may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable tax treaty).

Sale or Other Disposition of Common Stock

In general, a non-U.S. holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any gain realized upon the sale or other disposition of the non-U.S. holder's shares of our common stock unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if required by an applicable tax treaty as a condition for subjecting such non-U.S. holder to U.S. taxation on a net income basis, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained in the United States);

the non-U.S. holder is an individual and is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition and certain other conditions are met; or

we are or have been at any time during the applicable period a USRPHC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Gain that is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States (or so treated) generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax, net of certain deductions, at regular U.S. federal income tax rates. If the non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation, the branch profits tax described above also may apply to such effectively connected gain. An individual non-U.S. holder who is subject to U.S. federal income tax because the non-U.S. holder was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the year of sale or other disposition of our common stock will be subject to a 30% tax on the gain derived from such sale or other disposition, which may be offset by U.S.-source capital losses. We believe we are not, and have not been, a USRPHC, and we do not expect to become a USRPHC.

Recent Legislation

Withholdable Payments to Foreign Financial Entities and Other Foreign Entities

Recently-enacted U.S. federal income tax legislation imposes withholding taxes on certain types of payments made after December 31, 2012 to foreign financial institutions and certain other non-U.S. entities. The withholding tax of 30% would apply to dividends and the gross proceeds of a disposition of the warrants or our common stock paid to U.S. holders who own their warrants or common stock through foreign accounts or foreign intermediaries and certain foreign entities unless various information reporting requirements are satisfied. For these purposes, a foreign financial institution generally is defined as any non-U.S. entity that (i) accepts deposits in the ordinary course of a banking or similar business, (ii) is engaged in the business of holding financial assets for the account of others, or (iii) is engaged or holds itself out as being engaged primarily in the business of investing, reinvesting, or trading in securities, partnership interests, commodities, or any interest in such assets. Prospective investors are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the implications of this legislation on their investment in the warrants, as well as the status of any related federal regulations and any other legislative proposals that may pertain to ownership and disposition of the warrants or our common stock.

Table of Contents

Medicare Tax on Unearned Income

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, a U.S. person that is an individual will be subject to a 3.8% tax on the lesser of (1) the U.S. person's net investment income for the relevant taxable year and (2) the excess of the U.S. person's modified adjusted gross income for the taxable year over a certain threshold (between \$125,000 and \$250,000, depending on the individual's U.S. federal income tax filing status). A similar regime applies to certain estates and trusts. A U.S. holder's net investment income will generally include its dividend income and its net gains from the disposition of the warrants or our common stock, unless such dividends or net gains are derived in the ordinary course of the conduct of a trade or business (other than a trade or business that consists of certain passive or trading activities). If you are a U.S. holder that is an individual, estate or trust, you are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the applicability of the Medicare tax to your income and gains in respect of your investment in the warrants.

Backup Withholding, Information Reporting and Other Reporting Requirements

If you are a U.S. holder of our common stock or warrants, you will be subject to information reporting with respect to any distributions by us to you and proceeds of the sale or other disposition by you of our common stock or warrants, unless you are an exempt recipient and appropriately establish that exemption. In addition, such payments will be subject to U.S. federal backup withholding tax at a current rate of 28% unless you supply the payor your taxpayer identification number, certified under penalties of perjury, as well as certain other information or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

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

dividend payments, and

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

the proceeds are transferred to an account maintained by you in the United States,

the proceeds or the confirmation of the sale is mailed to you at a U.S. address, or

the sale has some other specified connection with the United States as provided in U.S. Treasury regulations, unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a U.S. person and the documentation requirements described above are met or you otherwise establish an exemption.

In addition, a sale of common stock or warrants will be subject to information reporting if it is effected at a foreign office of a broker that is:

a U.S. person,

a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. tax purposes,

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

a foreign partnership, if at any time during its tax year:

one or more of its partners are U.S. persons, as defined in U.S. Treasury regulations, who in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership, or

such foreign partnership is engaged in the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a U.S. person and the documentation requirements described above are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. Backup withholding will apply if the sale is subject to information reporting and the broker has actual knowledge that you are a U.S. person.

You generally may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules that exceed your income tax liability by filing a refund claim with the IRS. Payments subject to U.S. withholding tax will not also be subject to U.S. backup withholding tax.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain considerations associated with the purchase, holding and exercise of the warrants by an employee benefit plan subject to Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, referred to as ERISA, a plan subject to Section 4975 of the Code, including an individual retirement account, or IRA, or Keogh plan, a plan subject to applicable federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to the provisions of Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, referred to collectively as Similar Laws, and any entity whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of any such employee benefit or retirement plan's investment in such entity, each of which is referred to as a Plan. A fiduciary of a Plan should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA and Similar Laws in the context of the Plan's particular circumstances before authorizing an investment in the warrants. Among other factors, a Plan fiduciary should consider whether the investment would satisfy the prudence and diversification requirements of ERISA, the Code and Similar Laws and would be consistent with the documents and instruments governing the Plan, and whether the investment would involve a prohibited transaction under ERISA, the Code or Similar Laws.

With respect to Plans subject to Title I of ERISA or subject to Section 4975 of the Code, Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit such a Plan from engaging in certain transactions with persons who are parties in interest under ERISA or disqualified persons under Section 4975 of the Code with respect to the Plan. A violation of these prohibited transaction rules may result in excise tax or other liabilities under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code for those persons, unless exemptive relief is available under an applicable statutory, regulatory or administrative exemption. In the case of an IRA, the occurrence of a non-exempt prohibited transaction could cause the IRA to lose its tax-exempt status. Plans that are governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA) and non-U.S. plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA), referred to as Non-ERISA Arrangements, are not subject to the requirements of Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code but may be subject to Similar Laws.

An investment in the warrants or the acquisition of our common stock upon the exercise of the warrants by a Plan, including a Plan that is an entity whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of any Plan's investment in such entity, referred to as a Plan Asset Entity, with respect to which we or certain of our affiliates are or become a party in interest or disqualified person may constitute or result in a direct or indirect prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, unless such acquisition or exercise is made pursuant to an applicable exemption. The U.S. Department of Labor has issued several prohibited transaction class exemptions, or PTCEs, that may provide exemptive relief if required for direct or indirect prohibited transactions that may arise from the purchase of common stock. These exemptions include PTCE 84-14 (for certain transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers), PTCE 90-1 (for certain transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts), PTCE 91-38 (for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds), PTCE 95-60 (for transactions involving certain insurance company general accounts), and PTCE 96-23 (for transactions managed by in-house asset managers). In addition, ERISA Section 408(b)(17) and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code may provide an exemption for the purchase and sale of securities offered hereby, provided that neither the issuer of securities offered hereby nor any of its affiliates have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment advice with respect to the assets of any Plan involved in the transaction, and provided further that the Plan pays no more and receives no less than adequate consideration in connection with the transaction, referred to as the service provider exemption. There can be no assurance that all of the conditions of any such exemptions will be satisfied at the time that the warrants are acquired or exercised by a purchaser.

Table of Contents

Any purchaser or holder of warrants or common stock or any interest therein will be deemed to have represented by its purchase of the warrants or common stock pursuant to the exercise of the warrants that either (1) it is not a Plan (including, without limitation, a Plan Asset Entity or a Non-ERISA Arrangement) and is not purchasing the warrants or common stock pursuant thereto on behalf of or with the assets of any Plan (including, without limitation, a Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement) or (2) the purchase of the warrants or common stock pursuant thereto will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or a similar violation under any applicable Similar Laws.

The foregoing discussion is general in nature and is not intended to be all-inclusive. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is important that fiduciaries or other persons considering purchasing and/or exercising warrants on behalf of or with the assets of any Plan (including a Plan Asset Entity or Non-ERISA Arrangement) consult with their legal counsel regarding potential applicability of ERISA, Section 4975 of the Code and any Similar Laws to such investment and whether an exemption is available and the potential consequences of any purchase or holding under Similar Laws, as applicable. Purchasers of warrants have exclusive responsibility for ensuring that their purchase, holding and exercise of warrants do not violate the fiduciary or prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or the Code or any similar provisions of Similar Laws. The acquisition, holding and, to the extent relevant, exercise of, warrants or common stock by any Plan is in no respect a representation by us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by such Plans generally or any particular Plan, or that such an investment is appropriate for Plans generally or any particular Plan.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling securityholder (including its transferees, donees or pledgees) or its successors may offer and sell the Securities from time to time directly or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, including through an underwritten public auction. If the Securities are sold through underwriters or broker-dealers, the selling securityholder will be responsible for any underwriting discounts or commissions or agent's commissions and their professional fees. The Securities may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. Such sales may be effected in transactions (which may involve block transactions):

on any national securities exchange or U.S. interdealer system of a registered national securities association on which the Securities may be listed or quoted at the time of sale;

in the over-the-counter market;

in transactions otherwise than on a national securities exchange or U.S. interdealer system of a registered national securities association or in the over-the-counter market;

through the settlement of short sales;

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

in any combination of the foregoing; or

any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

The selling securityholder also may transfer, donate and pledge offered Securities, in which case the transferee, donee, pledgee or other successor in interest will be deemed the selling securityholder for purposes of this transaction.

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

In offering the Securities covered by this prospectus, any broker-dealers who execute sales for the selling securityholder may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act in connection with such sales, and the compensation of any such broker-dealer may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

Table of Contents

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

The anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of securities pursuant to this prospectus and to the activities of the selling securityholder. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling securityholder for the purpose of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act.

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

As referred to above, the selling securityholder may sell the Securities using a public auction process in which the public offering price and the allocation of the Securities will be determined through an auction conducted by an auction agent. The auction process may involve a modified Dutch auction mechanic in which the auction agent (and potentially other brokers) will receive and accept bids from bidders at either a minimum bid price or at price increments in excess of the minimum bid price. The auction agent and any such other brokers may be the underwriters or their affiliates. After the auction closes and those bids become irrevocable, the auction agent would determine the clearing price for the sale of the Securities offered in the auction, and subject to agreement between the selling securityholder and the underwriter or underwriters to proceed with the offering, the Securities would be allocated to winning bidders by the underwriter or underwriters. A more detailed description of the procedures to be used in connection with any such auction will be set out in a pricing supplement to this prospectus.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Securities will be passed upon for us by Goodwin Procter LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc. as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, have been incorporated by reference herein, in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP ("KPMG") and Hacker, Johnson & Smith PA, independent registered public accounting firms, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firms as experts in accounting and auditing.

In KPMG's report dated March 12, 2010 with respect to the consolidated financial statements described above, it is noted that KPMG did not audit the 2007 financial statements of Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust Company, a then wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. These statements were audited by Hacker, Johnson and Smith PA. KPMG's report dated March 12, 2010 also contains an explanatory paragraph that states the Company has changed its method of accounting for noncontrolling interests to comply with new accounting standards adopted by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information and reports we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to these documents. Our SEC file number is 000-17089. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede the information already incorporated by reference. We are incorporating by reference the documents listed below, which we have already filed with the SEC, and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, (1) on or after the date of filing of the registration containing this prospectus and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement and (2) on or after the date of this prospectus until the earlier of the date on which all of the Securities registered hereunder have been sold or this registration statement has been withdrawn shall be deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus and to be a part of this prospectus from the date of filing of those documents:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed on March 12, 2010;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010, filed on May 7, 2010;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010, filed on August 6, 2010;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010, filed on November 5, 2010;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 13, 2010; January 22, 2010; April 30, 2010; June 8, 2010; June 16, 2010; June 21, 2010; August 2, 2010; September 9, 2010; September 23, 2010; October 14, 2010; October 27, 2010; November 24, 2010 and December 15, 2010;

Portions of our Proxy Statement filed on April 2, 2010 that have been incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K; and

The description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed on July 27, 1988, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may request a copy of these filings, and any exhibits we have specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this prospectus, at no cost by writing or telephoning us at the following: Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc., Ten Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, Attention: Margaret W. Chambers, Corporate Secretary. Our telephone number is (617) 912-1900. You may also obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC through the SEC's website at the address described below.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the SEC. We have incorporated into this registration statement exhibits. You should read the exhibits carefully for provisions that may be important to you.

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these Securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or in the documents incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus or those documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in any other document filed later that is also incorporated in this prospectus by reference, modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this prospectus except as so modified or superseded. The information relating to us contained in this prospectus should be read together with

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the information contained in any prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement by reference.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act that registers the offer and sale of the Securities offered by this prospectus. This prospectus is part of the registration statement, but the registration statement, including the accompanying exhibits included or incorporated by reference therein, contains additional relevant information about us. The rules and regulations of the SEC allow us to omit certain information included in the registration statement from this prospectus.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and on our website at <http://www.bostonprivate.com>. We have included the SEC's web address and our web address as inactive textual references only. Except as specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus, information on those websites is not part of this prospectus.

We have the authority to designate and issue more than one class or series of stock having various preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends, qualifications, and terms and conditions of redemption. See Description of Capital Stock. We will furnish a full statement of the relative rights and preferences of each class or series of our stock that has been so designated and any restrictions on the ownership or transfer of our stock to any stockholder upon request and without charge. Written requests for such copies should be directed to: Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc., Ten Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, Attention: Margaret W. Chambers, Corporate Secretary.

Table of Contents

Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.

2,887,500 Warrants

Each to Purchase One Share of Common Stock

PROSPECTUS

, 2011

No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the Securities offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus is current only as of its date.