

Castle Brands Inc  
Form DEF 14A  
January 16, 2018

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**(Rule 14a-101)**

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

Filed by the Registrant  [X]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  [ ]

Check the appropriate box:

[ ] Preliminary Proxy Statement

[ ] Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

[X] Definitive Proxy Statement

[ ] Definitive Additional Materials

[ ] Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**CASTLE BRANDS INC.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:



**CASTLE BRANDS INC.**

**122 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 5000**

**New York, New York 10168**

**NOTICE OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MARCH 1, 2018**

**Castle Brands Inc. will hold its 2017 annual meeting of shareholders at the offices of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. Inc., located at 277 Park Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10172, on March 1, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., for the following purposes, as further described in the attached proxy statement:**

1. To elect eight directors to our board of directors;
2. To ratify the appointment of EisnerAmper LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018;
3. To approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers, which we refer to as the “say on pay” vote; and
4. To transact any other business properly presented at the meeting and at any postponements or adjournments.

You may vote at the meeting and at any adjournment or postponement if you were a record owner of our common stock at the close of business on January 4, 2018.

**Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the 2017 annual meeting, we encourage you to read the attached proxy statement and promptly vote your shares using the enclosed proxy card. Please sign and date the accompanying proxy card and mail it in the enclosed addressed, postage-prepaid envelope. You may also vote your shares over the Internet or by telephone by following the voting instructions on the proxy card.**

**You may revoke your proxy if you so desire at any time before it is voted.**

By Order of the Board of Directors

Richard J. Lampen,  
President and Chief Executive Officer

New York, New York

January 16, 2018

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>PROXY STATEMENT</u>	1
<u>PROPOSAL I – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	6
<u>PROPOSAL II – RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR FISCAL 2018</u>	10
<u>PROPOSAL III – APPROVAL, ON AN ADVISORY BASIS, OF THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, OR THE “SAY ON PAY” VOTE</u>	10
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS</u>	11
<u>INDEPENDENCE OF DIRECTORS</u>	11
<u>BOARD LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND ROLE IN RISK OVERSIGHT</u>	12
<u>BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND INFORMATION</u>	12
<u>EXECUTIVE SESSIONS</u>	12
<u>NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</u>	13
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE</u>	13
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND REPORT</u>	13
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	16
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	16
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION</u>	18
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	18
<u>SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE</u>	19
<u>NARRATIVE DISCLOSURE TO SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE</u>	19
<u>POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL</u>	23
<u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</u>	26
<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	28
<u>RELATED PARTY POLICY</u>	28
<u>RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS</u>	28
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	30
<u>SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u>	30
<u>INDEPENDENT AUDITORS</u>	31
<u>SOLICITATION OF PROXIES</u>	31
<u>SUBMISSION OF FUTURE SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS</u>	31
<u>COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>	31
<u>DISCRETIONARY VOTING OF PROXIES</u>	32
<u>IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS</u>	32
<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	32

**CASTLE BRANDS INC.**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

Our board of directors is soliciting proxies for the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders to be held on March 1, 2018. This proxy statement and the enclosed form of proxy contain important information for you to consider in deciding how to vote on the matters brought before the meeting.

We first sent this proxy statement to shareholders on or about January 16, 2018. Our board of directors set January 4, 2018, as the record date for the meeting. Shareholders of record who owned our stock at the close of business on that date may vote and attend the meeting. As of the record date, we had issued and outstanding 165,338,302 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, which we refer to as common stock. Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held on the record date.

**What matters am I voting on?**

You will be voting on:

the election of eight directors to hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified;

the ratification of the appointment of EisnerAmper LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018;

the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers; and

any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

**Who may vote?**

Holders of our common stock at the close of business on January 4, 2018, the record date, may vote at the meeting. On the record date, 165,338,302 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding. Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on the record date.

**When and where is the meeting?**

We will hold the meeting on March 1, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time at the offices of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. Inc., located at 277 Park Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10172.

If you need directions to the location of the meeting, please contact our Investor Relations Department by: (a) mail at Castle Brands Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 122 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 5000, New York, New York 10168, (b) telephone at (646) 356-0200 or (c) e-mail at [ir@castlebrandsinc.com](mailto:ir@castlebrandsinc.com).

**What is the effect of giving a proxy?**

Proxies in the form enclosed are solicited by and on behalf of our board of directors. The persons named in the proxy have been designated as proxies by our board of directors. If you sign and return the proxy in accordance with the procedures described in this proxy statement, the persons designated as proxies by the board of directors will vote your shares at the meeting as specified in your proxy.

If you duly execute the proxy card but do not specify how you want to vote, your shares will be voted:

FOR the election as directors of the nominees listed below under Proposal I.



FOR the ratification of the appointment of EisnerAmper LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018 as described below under Proposal II.

FOR the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers as described below under Proposal III.

If you give your proxy, the proxies named on the proxy card also will vote your shares in their discretion on any other matters properly brought before the meeting.

### **Can I change my vote after I voted?**

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised by:

delivering written notification of your revocation to our Corporate Secretary;

voting in person at the meeting; or

delivering another proxy bearing a later date.

Please note that your attendance at the meeting will not alone serve to revoke your proxy.

### **What is a quorum?**

A quorum is the minimum number of shares required to be present at the meeting for the meeting to be properly held under our bylaws and Florida law. The presence, in person or by proxy, of outstanding shares of our common stock representing a majority of all votes entitled to be cast at the meeting will constitute a quorum. A proxy submitted by a shareholder may indicate that all or a portion of the shares represented by the proxy are not being voted on a particular matter, which is referred to as shareholder withholding. Similarly, a broker may not be permitted to vote stock held in street name on a particular matter absent instructions from the beneficial owner of the stock, which is referred to as a broker non-vote. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

**How may I vote?**

You may vote your shares by mail or by attending the meeting. You may also vote over the Internet or by telephone using one of the methods described in the proxy card. If you vote by Internet or telephone, please do not return the proxy card. If you vote by mail, date, sign and return the accompanying proxy in the envelope enclosed for that purpose (to which no postage need be affixed if mailed in the United States). You may specify your choices by marking the appropriate boxes on the proxy card. If you attend the meeting, you may deliver your completed proxy card in person or fill out and return a ballot that will be supplied to you at the meeting.

**What is the vote required for each proposal?**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Vote Required</b>	<b>Broker Discretionary Voting Allowed</b>
Proposal I – Election of eight directors	Plurality of votes cast	No
Proposal II – Ratification of auditors for fiscal 2018	Majority of votes cast	Yes
Proposal III – Advisory vote on executive compensation	Majority of votes cast	No

On Proposal I, you may vote FOR all nominees, WITHHOLD your vote as to all nominees, or vote FOR all nominees except those specific nominees from who you WITHHOLD your vote. The eight nominees receiving the most FOR votes will be elected. A properly executed proxy marked WITHHOLD as to the election of one or more directors will not be voted with respect to the director or directors indicated.

On Proposals II and III, you may vote FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN.

Broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of any matter being voted on at the meeting, assuming a quorum is obtained, as shares subject to a broker non-vote will not be considered entitled to vote with respect to any of the Proposals. Abstentions will not affect the outcome of any matter being voted on at the meeting, assuming a quorum is obtained because approval of a percentage of shares present or outstanding is not required for any of the Proposals.

**Are there any rules regarding admission to the meeting?**

Yes. You are entitled to attend the meeting only if you were, or you hold a valid legal proxy naming you to act for, one of our shareholders on the record date. Before we will admit you to the meeting, we must be able to confirm:

Your identity by reviewing a valid form of photo identification, such as a driver's license; and

You were, or are validly acting for, a shareholder of record on the record date by:

◦ verifying your name and stock ownership against our list of registered shareholders, if you are the record holder of your shares;

◦ reviewing other evidence of your stock ownership, such as your most recent brokerage or bank statement, if you hold your shares in street name; or

◦ reviewing a written proxy that shows your name and is signed by the shareholder you are representing, in which case either the shareholder must be a registered shareholder or you must have a brokerage or bank statement for that shareholder as described above.

**If you do not have a valid picture identification and proof that you owned, or are legally authorized to act for someone who owned, shares of voting stock on January 4, 2018, you will not be admitted to the meeting.**

At the entrance to the meeting, we will verify that your name appears in our stock records or will inspect your brokerage or bank statement as your proof of ownership and any written proxy you present as the representative of a shareholder. We will decide whether the documentation you present for admission to the meeting meets the requirements described above.

**What is the “householding” of annual disclosure documents?**

The Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, has adopted rules governing the delivery of annual disclosure documents that permit us to send a single set of our annual report and proxy statement to any household at which two or more shareholders reside if we believe that the shareholders are members of the same family. This rule benefits both shareholders and us by reducing the volume of duplicate information received and our expenses. Each shareholder will continue to receive a separate proxy card. If your household received a single set of disclosure documents for this year, but you would prefer to receive your own copy, or if you share an address with another shareholder and together both of you wish to receive only a single set of our annual disclosure documents, please contact our Investor Relations Department by: (a) mail at Castle Brands Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 122 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 5000, New York, New York 10168, (b) telephone at (646) 356-0200 or (c) e-mail at *ir@castlebrandsinc.com*.

Our 2017 annual report, including financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, accompany the proxy solicitation materials. The annual report, however, is not part of the proxy solicitation materials.

## Share Ownership

The table below shows the number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned as of January 4, 2018 by (i) those persons or groups known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our common stock, (ii) each of our directors, (iii) each of our executive officers named in the “Summary Compensation Table” below, whom we refer to as named executive officers, and (iv) all directors and executive officers as a group. The number of shares beneficially owned by each individual or group is based upon information in documents filed with the SEC, other publicly available information or information available to us. Percentage ownership information is based on 165,338,302 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding as of January 4, 2018.

Shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of options or conversion of convertible notes that are presently exercisable or exercisable or convertible within 60 days of January 4, 2018 are deemed to be outstanding and beneficially owned by the person holding the options or convertible notes for the purpose of computing the percentage of ownership of that person, but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage of any other person.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Beneficial ownership of our	
	common stock Number of Shares	Percent
Phillip Frost, M.D. and related entities <sup>(1)</sup> 4400 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 1500 Miami, FL 33137	54,128,662	32.6 %
Vector Group Ltd. <sup>(2)</sup> 4400 Biscayne Blvd., 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor Miami, FL 33137	12,893,382	7.8 %
Mark Andrews <sup>(3)</sup>	6,300,987	3.8 %
John Beaudette <sup>(4)</sup>	206,246	*
Henry C. Beinstein <sup>(5)</sup>	340,000	*
John S. Glover <sup>(6)</sup>	2,101,677	1.3 %
Dr. Richard M. Krasno <sup>(7)</sup>	140,000	*
Richard J. Lampen <sup>(8)</sup>	6,238,535	3.7 %
Alejandra Peña <sup>(9)</sup>	327,500	*
Steven D. Rubin <sup>(10)</sup>	241,000	*
Alfred J. Small <sup>(11)</sup>	843,397	*
T. Kelley Spillane <sup>(12)</sup>	884,277	*
Mark Zeitchick <sup>(13)</sup>	240,000	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (12 persons) <sup>(14)</sup>	71,992,280	41.3 %

\*Less than 1 percent.

Includes 80,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018. Also includes 9,370,790 shares of common stock held by Frost Nevada Investments Trust. Frost-Nevada Limited Partnership is the sole and exclusive beneficiary of Frost Nevada Investments Trust. Dr. Frost is one of five limited partners of Frost-Nevada Limited Partnership and the sole shareholder of Frost-Nevada Corporation, which is the sole general partner of Frost-Nevada Limited Partnership. Dr. Frost disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by Frost Nevada Investments Trust, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest. Also includes (i) 43,342,540 shares of common stock held by Frost Gamma Investments Trust, of which Dr. Frost is the trustee and (1) (ii) 555,556 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of \$500,000 aggregate principal amount of convertible notes held by Frost Gamma Investments Trust. Frost Gamma Limited Partnership is the sole and exclusive beneficiary of Frost Gamma Investments Trust. Dr. Frost is one of two limited partners of Frost Gamma Limited Partnership. The general partner of Frost Gamma Limited Partnership is Frost Gamma, Inc., and the sole shareholder of Frost Gamma, Inc. is Frost-Nevada Corporation. Dr. Frost is also the sole shareholder of Frost-Nevada Corporation. Dr. Frost disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest.

- This information has been derived from a Schedule 13D, as amended, filed with the SEC on March 14, 2014.
- (2) Includes 222,223 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of \$200,000 aggregate principal amount of convertible notes. Excludes (i) 6,238,535 shares of common stock beneficially owned by Richard J. Lampen, the executive vice president of Vector Group Ltd., and a director and the president and chief executive officer of our company, and (ii) 340,000 shares of common stock beneficially owned by Henry C. Beinstein, a director of our company, who is also a director of Vector Group.
- (3) Includes 1,183,079 shares of common stock held by Knappogue Corp. Knappogue Corp. is controlled by Mr. Andrews and his family. Mr. Andrews disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest. Also includes 120,000 shares of common stock which are subject to vesting restrictions, 1,362,500 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018 and 2,867,659 shares of common stock held jointly by Mr. Andrews and his wife.
- (4) Includes 9,246 shares of common stock held by BPW Holdings LLC, an entity of which Mr. Beaudette is a principal interest holder. Mr. Beaudette disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest. Also includes 172,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018.
- (5) Includes 140,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018. Excludes shares of common stock beneficially owned by Vector Group Ltd., of which Mr. Beinstein serves as a director.
- (6) Includes 130,000 shares of common stock which are subject to vesting restrictions and 1,494,150 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018.
- (7) Includes 90,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018.
- (8) Includes 3,375,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options held by Mr. Lampen exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018. Also includes 1,016,065 shares of common stock held by Mr. Lampen's wife, as to which he disclaims beneficial ownership. Excludes shares of common stock beneficially owned by Vector Group Ltd., of which Mr. Lampen serves as an executive officer.
- (9) Includes 252,500 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018.
- (10) Includes 75,000 shares of common stock which are subject to vesting restrictions and 240,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018.
- (11)

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Includes 90,000 shares of common stock which are subject to vesting restrictions and 515,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018.

(12) Includes 90,000 shares of common stock which are subject to vesting restrictions and 544,783 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018.

(13) Includes 160,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of January 4, 2018.

Includes (i) 8,425,933 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of  
(14) January 4, 2018 and (ii) 555,556 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of \$500,000 aggregate principal amount of convertible notes.



## **PROPOSAL I**

### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Eight directors will be elected to hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders or until their successors are duly elected or their earlier death, resignation or removal. All of the nominees currently serve as directors.

The proxies solicited by our board of directors will be voted FOR the election of these nominees unless other instructions are specified. Our articles of incorporation do not provide for cumulative voting. Should any nominee become unavailable to serve, the proxies may be voted for a substitute nominee designated by the board or the board may reduce the number of authorized directors. Information regarding each director nominee is set forth below.

*Mark E. Andrews, III*, 67, our chairman of the board, founded our predecessor company, Great Spirits Company LLC, in 1998 and served as its chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer from its inception until December 2003. Mr. Andrews has served as our chairman of the board since December 2003 and served as our president from December 2003 until November 2005. Mr. Andrews served as our chief executive officer from December 2003 until November 2008. Prior to founding our predecessor, Mr. Andrews founded American Exploration Company, a company engaged in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas, in 1980. He oversaw that company becoming publicly traded in 1983 and served as its chairman and chief executive officer until its merger with Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Corp. in October 1997. He also serves as a life trustee of The New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. Mr. Andrews' pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include financial literacy and expertise, industry experience, managerial experience, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director and officer of publicly-traded corporations.

*John F. Beaudette*, 61, has served as a director of our company since January 2004. Since 1995, Mr. Beaudette has been president and chief executive officer of MHW, Ltd., a national beverage alcohol import, distribution and service company located in Manhasset, New York. MHW, Ltd. provides U.S. import and distribution services to wineries, breweries, and distilleries throughout the world. He serves as Vice Chairman of the board of directors of The National Association of Beverage Importers Inc. (NABI). Mr. Beaudette's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include industry expertise, managerial experience and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of our company.

*Henry C. Beinstein*, 74, has served as a director of our company since January 2009. He has been a partner of Gagnon Securities, LLC, a broker-dealer and a FINRA member firm, since January 2005 and has been a money manager and an analyst and registered representative of such firm since August 2002. Mr. Beinstein has been a director of Vector Group Ltd., a New York Stock Exchange listed holding company, since March 2004. Vector Group is engaged principally in the tobacco business through its Liggett Group LLC subsidiary and in the real estate and investment

business through its New Valley LLC subsidiary. New Valley owns more than 70% of Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC, which operates the largest residential brokerage company in the New York metropolitan area. Since May 2001, Mr. Beinstein has served as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc., a publicly-traded diversified financial services company. Mr. Beinstein is a certified public accountant in New York and New Jersey and previously was a partner and national director of finance and administration at Coopers & Lybrand. Mr. Beinstein's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include financial literacy and expertise, managerial experience and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of publicly-traded corporations.

*Phillip Frost, M.D.*, 81, has served as a director of our company since October 2008 and previously served as a director of our company from September 2005 to August 2007. Since March 2007, he has served as chairman of the board and chief executive officer of OPKO Health, Inc., a multi-national biopharmaceutical and diagnostics company. Since July 2006, Dr. Frost has served as the chairman of the board of directors of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. Since December 2015, Dr. Frost has served as vice chairman of the board of directors of Cogint, Inc. (formerly IDI, Inc.), an information solutions provider focused on the data-fusion market. Dr. Frost also serves as a director for CoCrystal Pharma, Inc., a biotechnology company. He also serves as chairman of Temple Emanu-El, as a member of the Florida Council of 100, as a trustee for each of the University of Miami, the Miami Jewish Home for the Aged and the Mount Sinai Medical Center and as a member of the executive committee of the board of trustees of the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science. From 1972 to 1990, Dr. Frost was the chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Mt. Sinai Medical Center of Greater Miami, Miami Beach, Florida. Dr. Frost served as a director of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., a pharmaceutical company, from January 2006 until February 2015, served as chairman of the board of directors of Teva from March 2010 until December 2014 and served as vice chairman of the board of directors from January 2006 when Teva acquired IVAX Corporation until March 2010. Dr. Frost was chairman of the board of directors of Key Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from 1972 until its acquisition by Schering Plough Corporation in 1986 and served as chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer of IVAX from 1987 to January 2006. Dr. Frost previously served as a director of Continucare Corp. (until its merger with Metropolitan Health Networks, Inc.), PROLOR Biotech, Inc. (until it was acquired by OPKO Health, Inc.), TransEnterix, Inc. (formerly SafeStitch Medical, Inc.) and Sevion Therapeutics, Inc. (formerly Senesco Technologies, Inc.), and as governor and co-vice-chairman of the American Stock Exchange (now NYSE American). Dr. Frost's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include financial literacy and expertise, managerial experience, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director and officer of publicly-traded corporations.

*Dr. Richard M. Krasno*, 75, has served as a director of our company since March 2015. Dr. Krasno has served as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. since 2006 and has served as its lead director since November 2014. Since October 2016, Dr. Krasno has served as a director of BioCardia, Inc., a clinical-stage regenerative medicine company. Since February 2017, Dr. Krasno has served as a director of OPKO Health, Inc. From 1999 to 2014, he served as the executive director of the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust and, from 1999 to 2010, as president of the four affiliated William R. Kenan, Jr. Funds. Prior to joining the Trust, Dr. Krasno was the president of the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. From 2004 to 2012, Dr. Krasno also served as a director of the University of North Carolina Health Care System and served as chairman of the board of directors from 2009 to 2012. From 1981 to 1998, he served as president and chief executive officer of the Institute of International Education in New York. He also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education in Washington, D.C. from 1979 to 1980. Dr. Krasno's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include financial literacy and expertise, managerial experience and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of publicly-traded corporations.

*Richard J. Lampen*, 64, has served as our president and chief executive officer and as a director of our company since October 2008. Mr. Lampen has served as executive vice president of Vector Group Ltd. since July 1996. Since September 2006, he has served as president and chief executive officer of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. Mr. Lampen has served as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. since January 2002. Mr. Lampen also previously served as chairman of the board of directors of the Financial Services Institute, an advocacy organization for independent broker-dealers and their affiliated independent financial advisors, and currently serves as

its immediate past chairman. From January 1997 until January 2014, Mr. Lampen served as a director of SG Blocks, Inc. Mr. Lampen's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include his knowledge and experience in our company attained through his service as a director of our company and as president and chief executive officer since 2008, and his managerial experience and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director and officer of publicly-traded corporations.

*Steven D. Rubin, 57*, has served as a director of our company since January 2009. Mr. Rubin has served as executive vice president — administration since May 2007 and as a director of OPKO Health, Inc. since February 2007. Mr. Rubin served as the senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of IVAX Corporation from August 2001 until its merger with Teva in January 2006. From May 2016 to October 2016, Mr. Rubin served as interim chief executive officer and interim chief financial officer of Tiger X Medical, Inc., prior to its merger with BioCardia, Inc. Mr. Rubin currently serves on the board of directors of VBI Vaccines, Inc., a commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company which develops, produces and markets next generation vaccines to address unmet needs in infectious disease and immuno-oncology, Cogint, Inc., Kidville, Inc., which operates large, upscale facilities, catering to newborns through five-year-old children and their families and offers a wide range of developmental classes for newborns to five-year-olds, Non-Invasive Monitoring Systems, Inc., a medical device company, Cocrystal Pharma, Inc., Sevion Therapeutics, Inc., Neovasc, Inc., a company developing and marketing medical specialty vascular devices, and ChromaDex Corp., an innovator of proprietary health, wellness and nutritional ingredients that creates science-based solutions for dietary supplement, food and beverage, skin care, sports nutrition, and pharmaceutical products. Mr. Rubin previously served as a director of Dreams, Inc., a vertically integrated sports licensing and products company, SafeStitch Medical, Inc. prior to its merger with TransEnterix, Inc., SciVac Therapeutics, Inc. prior to its merger with VBI Vaccines, Inc., Tiger X Medical, Inc. prior to its merger with BioCardia, Inc. and PROLOR Biotech, Inc., prior to its acquisition by OPKO in August 2013. Mr. Rubin's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include financial literacy and expertise, legal experience, managerial experience, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director and officer of publicly-traded corporations.

*Mark Zeitchick, 52*, has served as a director of our company since March 2014. Mr. Zeitchick has been executive vice president of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. since September 2006 and has served as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. since 1999. From August 1999 until December 2003, Mr. Zeitchick served as an executive vice president of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. and from September 2006 until December 2011, Mr. Zeitchick served as president and chief executive officer of its subsidiary Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. Inc. Mr. Zeitchick has been a registered representative with Ladenburg Thalmann & Co. Inc. since March 2001. Mr. Zeitchick's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include managerial and financial experience and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director and officer of a publicly-traded corporation.

## **Vote Required**

The vote required to approve the proposal to elect the eight nominees listed above to serve as members of our board of directors is the affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting with respect to the proposal.

**Our board of directors recommends that you vote FOR each of the nominees named above. Unless otherwise indicated, all proxies will be voted FOR the election of each of the nominees named above.**

## **Executive Officers**

Our executive officers serve until the appointment and qualification of their successors or until their earlier death, resignation or removal by our board of directors. The following table lists the name, age and position of our executive officers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Richard J. Lampen	64	President and Chief Executive Officer
John S. Glover	63	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
T. Kelley Spillane	55	Senior Vice President — Global Sales
Alfred J. Small	48	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer & Secretary
Alejandra Peña	50	Senior Vice President — Marketing

Listed below are biographical descriptions of our current executive officers. For Mr. Lampen’s information, see the description under “Election of Directors” above.

*John S. Glover*, our executive vice president and chief operating officer, joined us in February 2008. Mr. Glover served as our senior vice president — marketing from February 2008 to October 2008, has served as our chief operating officer since October 2008, and has served as our executive vice president since March 2017. From June 2006 to February 2008, Mr. Glover served as senior vice president — commercial management of Remy Cointreau USA. From January 2001 to June 2006, Mr. Glover served in various management positions at Remy Cointreau in the United States and France. From January 1999 to January 2001, he was a managing director and chief marketing officer for Bols Royal Distilleries in the Netherlands.

*T. Kelley Spillane*, our senior vice president — global sales, joined us in April 2000. From April 2000 to December 2003, Mr. Spillane served as vice president — sales of Great Spirits Company, and was appointed executive vice president — U.S. sales in December 2003. He has served as our senior vice president — global sales since June 2013. Prior to joining us, Mr. Spillane worked at Carillon Importers Limited, a division of Grand Metropolitan PLC. Carillon developed and launched Absolut Vodka and Bombay Sapphire Gin. At Carillon, Mr. Spillane served as assistant manager for its control states and duty free divisions and was promoted to director of special accounts, focusing on expanding sales in national accounts.

*Alfred J. Small*, our senior vice president, chief financial officer, treasurer and secretary joined us in October 2004. Mr. Small has served as our chief financial officer and treasurer since November 2007 and as our secretary since January 2009. He previously served as our vice president-controller from March 2007 until November 2007 and has served as our principal accounting officer since October 2006. Mr. Small is a certified public accountant.

*Alejandra Peña*, our senior vice president — marketing, joined us in September 2010. Prior to joining our company, Ms. Peña most recently served as marketing vice president for liqueurs and spirits for Remy Cointreau USA, where she was responsible for the marketing of Cointreau Liqueur and Mount Gay Rum in addition to other brands. Earlier in her career, she was employed with Banfi and served as marketing director of Italian Estate Wines. Ms. Peña started her career as a strategic consultant and is fluent in English, Spanish and Italian.

There are no family relationships among any of our directors and executive officers.

### **Corporate Governance Guidelines**

Our board of directors has adopted a code of conduct, which applies to all of our directors, executive officers and employees. The code of conduct sets forth our commitment to conduct our business in accordance with the highest standards of business ethics and to promote the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct by our directors, executive officers and employees.

Our board of directors has also adopted a nominating and corporate governance committee charter that sets forth (i) corporate governance principles intended to promote efficient, effective and transparent governance and (ii) procedures for the identification and selection of individuals qualified to become directors.

Among other matters, our nominating and corporate governance committee charter and code of conduct set forth the following governing principles:

A majority of our directors should be “independent” as defined in the rules adopted by the SEC and the NYSE American.

To facilitate critical discussion, the independent directors are required to meet apart from other board members and management representatives.

Compensation of our non-employee directors should include equity-based compensation. Employee directors are not paid for their board service in addition to their regular employee compensation.

All directors, executive officers and employees must act at all times in accordance with the requirements of our code of conduct. This obligation includes adherence to our policies with respect to conflicts of interest; full, accurate and timely disclosure; compliance with securities laws; confidentiality of our information; protection and proper use of our assets; ethical conduct in business dealings; and respect for and compliance with applicable law. Any change to, or waiver of, the requirements of, the code of conduct with respect to any director, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or persons performing similar functions may be granted only by the board of directors. Any such change or waiver will be promptly disclosed as required by applicable law or regulations.



Our code of conduct and our nominating and corporate governance committee charter are posted on our investor relations website at <http://investor.castlebrandsinc.com>. We intend to post amendments to, or waivers from a provision of, our code of business conduct that apply to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, or persons performing similar functions on our web site.

## **Shareholder Nominations**

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which security holders may recommend nominees to our board of directors.

## **PROPOSAL II**

### **RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR FISCAL 2018**

We ask that you ratify the appointment of EisnerAmper LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018.

Our audit committee appointed EisnerAmper LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018. Representatives of EisnerAmper LLP are expected to be present at the meeting with the opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

If the appointment is not ratified, the adverse vote will be considered as an indication to our audit committee that it should consider selecting another independent registered public accounting firm for the following fiscal year. Even if the selection is ratified, our audit committee, in its discretion, may select a new independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it believes that such a change would be in our best interest.

## **Vote Required**

The vote required to approve the proposal to ratify the appointment of EisnerAmper LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018 is the affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast at the meeting with respect to the proposal.

**Our board of directors recommends that you vote FOR Proposal II, the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018.**

### **PROPOSAL III**

#### **APPROVAL, ON AN ADVISORY BASIS, OF THE COMPENSATION**

#### **OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

#### **(THE SAY ON PAY VOTE)**

As required by Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the Exchange Act, we are seeking a non-binding advisory vote from our shareholders to approve the compensation of our named executive officers as described in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section and the executive compensation tables, the footnotes to the tables and narrative information accompanying the tables in this proxy statement. This proposal is also referred to as the say on pay vote.

We have designed our compensation policies and programs to attract, retain and motivate talented executives who are critical for our continued growth and success and to align the interests of these executives with those of our shareholders. We believe that our compensation policies and programs are centered on a pay-for-performance philosophy. To achieve these objectives, besides annual base salaries, our executive compensation program utilizes a combination of annual incentives through cash bonuses and long-term incentives through equity-based compensation. In establishing overall executive compensation levels, the compensation committee of our board of directors considers a number of criteria, including the executive's scope of responsibilities, prior and current period performance and attainment of individual and overall company performance objectives and retention concerns. Our president and chief executive officer and our compensation committee believe that substantial portions of executive compensation should be linked to the overall performance of our company, and that the contribution of individuals over the course of the relevant period to the goal of building a profitable business and shareholder value will be considered in the determination of each executive's compensation. We believe that our compensation policies and programs are designed with the appropriate balance of risk and reward consistent with our overall business strategy. In deciding how to vote on this proposal, we urge you to read the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section of this proxy statement, together with the tables and footnotes that follow, for details of our executive compensation policies and programs.

Shareholders are being asked to vote on the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the shareholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed in the proxy statement for the 2017 annual meeting, including the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section, the executive compensation tables, the footnotes to the tables and the related narrative contained therein."

Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding upon our board of directors. Accordingly, prior compensation determinations of the board of directors will not be invalidated and the board of directors will not be required to adjust executive compensation programs or policies as a result of the outcome of the vote. However, the board of directors values shareholders' opinions and the compensation committee will take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation arrangements.

### **Vote Required**

The vote required to approve the proposal regarding the advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers is the affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast at the meeting with respect to the proposal.

**Our board of directors recommends that you vote FOR Proposal III, the advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers.**

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

### **Independence of Directors**

We follow the NYSE American rules in determining if a director is independent. Our board of directors also consults with our counsel to ensure that the board's determination is consistent with those rules and all other relevant laws and regulations regarding director independence. Consistent with these considerations, our board of directors has determined that Messrs. Beaudette, Beinstein, Krasno, Rubin and Zeitchick are independent directors. The other remaining directors may not be deemed independent under the NYSE American rules because they currently have relationships with us that may result in them being deemed not "independent." All members of our audit, compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees are independent. The members of our audit committee are also independent under Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act and under the NYSE American rules for audit committee independence.

## Board Leadership Structure and Role in Risk Oversight

We believe that effective board leadership structure can depend on the experience, skills, and personal interaction between persons in leadership roles, and the needs of our company at any point in time. We currently maintain separate roles between the chief executive officer and chairman of the board in recognition of the differences between the two responsibilities. Our chief executive officer is responsible for setting our strategic direction and for leadership of our management team and the performance of our company. Our chairman of the board provides input to the chief executive officer, sets the agenda for board meetings, and presides over meetings of the full board of directors, as well as executive sessions of the board of directors. We do not have a lead director because we believe that the separation of the roles of chairman of the board and chief executive officer make the role of lead director unnecessary.

The board of directors is also responsible for oversight of our risk management practices, while management is responsible for the day-to-day risk management processes. This division of responsibilities is the most effective approach for addressing the risks facing our company, and our company's board leadership structure supports this approach. The board of directors receives periodic reports from management regarding the most significant risks facing our company. Also, our audit committee assists the board of directors in its oversight role by receiving periodic reports regarding our company's risk and control environment.

## Board Committee Membership and Information

The following table shows the current members of each board committee, the directors our board of directors has determined to be independent and the number of meetings held by each committee in fiscal 2017.

<b>Director</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Audit</b>	<b>Compensation</b>	<b>Nominating and Corporate Governance</b>
Mark Andrews				
John F. Beaudette	X	X	X	
Henry C. Beinstein	X	X		X
Phillip Frost, M.D.				
Dr. Richard M. Krasno	X		X	X
Richard J. Lampen				
Steven D. Rubin	X	X	X	X
Mark Zeitchick	X			X
Number of meetings held in fiscal 2017	1	5	2	1

Our board of directors met four times during fiscal 2017. During fiscal 2017, each of our directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the board of directors and of each committee of which he was a member held during the period for which he was a director or member, as applicable. We expect our directors to attend all board and committee meetings and to spend the time needed and meet as frequently as necessary to properly discharge their responsibilities. Although we do not have any formal policy regarding director attendance at annual shareholder meetings, we attempt to schedule our annual meetings so that all of our directors can attend. Two directors attended our 2016 annual meeting.

### **Executive Sessions**

We regularly schedule executive sessions during which our independent directors meet without the presence of or participation by management.

## **Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee**

Messrs. Beinstein, Rubin and Zeitchick and Dr. Krasno currently comprise our nominating and corporate governance committee. Our nominating and corporate governance committee identifies, researches and recommends to the board of directors qualified candidates to serve as directors on our board of directors.

Our nominating and corporate governance committee is responsible for, among other things:

recommending to our board of directors the slate of nominees of directors to be proposed for election by the shareholders and individuals to be considered by our board of directors to fill vacancies;

establishing criteria for selecting new directors; and

reviewing and assessing annually the performance of the nominating and corporate governance committee and the adequacy of the nominating and corporate governance committee charter.

Our nominating and corporate governance committee will consider candidates suggested by our shareholders pursuant to written applications submitted to the nominating and corporate governance committee, in care of our Corporate Secretary at the address set forth below for the submission of shareholder proposals.

Besides considering candidates suggested by shareholders, our nominating and corporate governance committee also accepts recommendations from our directors, members of management and others familiar with, and experienced in, the beverage alcohol industry. Our nominating and corporate governance committee establishes criteria for the selection of nominees and reviews the appropriate skills and characteristics required of board members. In evaluating candidates, the committee considers issues of independence, diversity and expertise in numerous areas, including experience in the premium branded spirits industry, finance, marketing, international experience and culture. Our nominating and corporate governance committee selects individuals of the highest personal and professional integrity who have demonstrated exceptional ability and judgment in their field and who would work effectively with the other directors and nominees to the board of directors. Our nominating and corporate governance committee also monitors and reviews the committee structure of our board of directors, and each year it recommends to our board of directors for its approval directors to serve as members of each committee. The nominating and corporate governance committee conducts an annual review of the adequacy of the nominating and corporate governance committee charter, and recommends proposed changes. Our nominating and corporate governance committee charter is posted on our investor relations website at <http://investor.castlebrandsinc.com>.

The persons to be elected at our annual meeting are the current directors standing for re-election.

### **Compensation Committee**

Messrs. Beaudette and Rubin and Dr. Krasno currently comprise our compensation committee. None of these individuals has ever served as an officer of ours or of any of our subsidiaries. The compensation committee does not have a charter. More information regarding the role and policies of the compensation committee is included below under the headings “Executive Compensation” and “Director Compensation.”

### **Audit Committee Information and Report**

Our audit committee was established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act. Our audit committee assists the board of directors in monitoring:

the integrity of our financial statements;

our independent auditor’s qualifications and independence;

the performance of our independent auditor; and

our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.



The audit committee also reviews and approves all related-party transactions. Our audit committee charter is posted on our investor relations website at <http://investor.castlebrandsinc.com>.

As required by applicable SEC and NYSE American rules, our board of directors has determined that each audit committee member is financially literate and that Mr. Beinstein, who chairs the committee, is an audit committee financial expert as defined by SEC rules.

***Fees to Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for Fiscal 2017 and 2016***

EisnerAmper LLP billed us the following amounts for professional services rendered for fiscal 2017 and 2016:

	2017	2016
Audit Fees	\$572,400	\$519,613
Audit-Related Fees	—	—
Tax Fees	—	—
All Other Fees	—	—
Total	\$572,400	\$519,613

***Audit Fees***

This category includes the audit of our annual financial statements, reviews of financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and services that are normally provided by the independent registered public accounting firm in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements, including the audit of our internal control over financial reporting. This category also includes fees for advice on accounting matters that arose during, or as a result of, the annual audit or the reviews of interim financial statements.

***Audit-Related Fees***

This category would include assurance and related services provided by EisnerAmper LLP that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and are not reported above under “Audit Fees.”

*Tax Fees*

This category would include fees for professional services rendered by EisnerAmper LLP for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning.

*All Other Fees*

This category would consist of fees for other miscellaneous items.

*Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures*

In accordance with its charter, our audit committee reviews and approves in advance on a case-by-case basis each engagement, including the fees and terms thereof, by us of accounting firms that will perform permissible non-audit services or audit, review or attestation services for us. Our audit committee is authorized to establish detailed pre-approval policies and procedures for pre-approval of such engagements without a meeting of the audit committee, but our audit committee has not established any such pre-approval procedures at this time.

Our audit committee pre-approved all fees of our principal independent accounting firm, EisnerAmper LLP, for fiscal 2017.

### *Audit Committee Report*

Under its written charter, our audit committee's responsibilities include, among other things:

appointing, replacing, overseeing and compensating the work of our independent registered public accounting firm;

reviewing and discussing with management and our independent registered public accounting firm our quarterly financial statements and discussing with management our earnings releases;

pre-approving all auditing services and permissible non-audit services provided by our independent registered public accounting firm;

engaging in a dialogue with our independent registered public accounting firm regarding relationships that may adversely affect the independence of the independent registered public accounting firm and, based on such review, assessing the independence of our independent registered public accounting firm;

providing the audit committee report to be filed with the SEC in our annual proxy statement;

reviewing with our independent registered public accounting firm the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal controls over our financial reporting;

establishing procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, including the confidential anonymous submission by our employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;

reviewing and pre-approving related-party transactions;

reviewing and discussing with management and our independent registered public accounting firm management's annual assessment of the effectiveness of the internal controls and our independent registered public accounting firm's attestation;

appointing or replacing the independent auditor;

reviewing and discussing with management and our independent registered public accounting firm the adequacy and effectiveness of our internal controls including any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of our internal controls or material weaknesses and any fraud, whether or not material, that involves our management or other employees who have a significant role in our internal controls and the adequacy and effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures; and

reviewing and assessing annually the adequacy of the audit committee charter.

Our audit committee has met and held discussions with management and EisnerAmper LLP, our independent auditors. Management represented to the audit committee that our consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and the audit committee has reviewed and discussed the consolidated financial statements with management and the independent auditors. The audit committee discussed with EisnerAmper LLP the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 1301 (Communications with Audit Committees), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, which requires the independent registered public accounting firm to provide the audit committee with information regarding the scope and results of its audit of the company's financial statements, including information with respect to the firm's responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, significant accounting policies, management judgments and estimates, any significant audit adjustments, any disagreements with management and any difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

EisnerAmper LLP also provided the audit committee with the written disclosures and letter regarding independence required by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditors' communication with the audit committee regarding independence. The audit committee discussed with EisnerAmper LLP and management the auditors' independence, including with regard to fees for services rendered during the 2017 fiscal year and for all other professional services rendered by EisnerAmper LLP.

Based upon the audit committee's discussion with management and the independent auditors and the audit committee's review of our audited financial statements, the representations of management and the report of the independent auditors to the audit committee, the audit committee recommended that our board of directors include the audited consolidated financial statements in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, as amended, filed with the SEC on June 14, 2017.

The Members of the Audit Committee

John F. Beaudette

Henry C. Beinstein

Steven D. Rubin

## **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

This "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section discusses the compensation programs and policies for our executive officers and the compensation committee's role in the design and administration of these programs and policies in making specific compensation decisions for our executive officers, including our "named executive officers."

Our compensation committee has the sole authority and responsibility to review and determine, or recommend to our board of directors for determination, the compensation package of our chief executive officer and each of our other named executive officers, each of whom is identified in the Summary Compensation Table below. Our compensation committee also considers the design and effectiveness of the compensation programs for our other executive officers and approves the final compensation package, employment agreements, and stock awards and option grants for all of

our executive officers. Our compensation committee is composed entirely of independent directors who have never served as officers of our company.

Our compensation committee may engage outside advisors, experts and others to assist it in determining executive compensation. Our compensation committee engaged GK Partners, Inc. to provide services in connection with its compensation review for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017. In particular, GK Partners reviewed the terms of the new employment agreements entered into in April 2017 for our named executive officers (other than Mr. Lampen who does not have an employment agreement with our company). The compensation committee, considering all relevant factors, including those set forth in Rule 10C-1(b)(4)(i) through (vi) under the Exchange Act and applicable NYSE American rules, is not aware of any conflict of interest that has been raised by the work performed by GK Partners. Other than the services for which the compensation committee directly engaged GK Partners, GK Partners provided no services to us for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017. Our compensation committee did not engage compensation consultants with respect to the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016.

Set forth below is a discussion of the policies and decisions that shape our executive compensation programs, including the specific objectives and elements. Information regarding director compensation is included under the heading “Director Compensation” below.

*General Executive Compensation Objectives and Philosophy*

The objective of our executive compensation programs is to attract, retain and motivate talented executives who are critical for our continued growth and success and to align the interests of these executives with those of our shareholders. To achieve this objective, besides annual base salaries, our executive compensation programs utilize a combination of annual incentives through cash bonuses and long-term incentives through equity-based compensation. Our compensation committee believes that cash bonuses reward our named executive officers for their own performance, as well as our company's overall performance, and that equity-based compensation aligns the interests of our named executive officers with the long-term performance of our company. Equity-based compensation for our named executive officers is typically subject to time-based vesting over a period of four years. We do not have specific policies for allocating between long-term and currently paid out compensation or between cash and non-cash compensation. Such amounts are determined by our compensation committee on an annual basis as described below.

In establishing overall executive compensation levels, our compensation committee considers a number of criteria, including the executive's scope of responsibilities, prior and current period performance and attainment of individual and overall company performance objectives and retention concerns. Our president and chief executive officer and our compensation committee believe that substantial portions of executive compensation should be linked to the overall performance of our company, and that the contribution of individuals over the course of the relevant period to the goal of building a profitable business and shareholder value will be considered in the determination of each executive's compensation. We do not use benchmarking against a peer group or otherwise.

Generally, our compensation committee reviews and, as appropriate, modifies compensation arrangements for executive officers in the first quarter of each fiscal year, subject to the terms of existing employment agreements with our named executive officers, as discussed below. Annual equity awards, if any, are typically granted in the first quarter of each fiscal year as well. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, except with respect to our president and chief executive officer's compensation, our compensation committee considered our president and chief executive officer's executive compensation recommendations, which recommendations were presented at the time of our compensation committee's annual review of executive performance and compensation. In making such determinations, the compensation committee considered the overall performance of each executive and their contribution to the growth of our company and its products as well as overall company performance through personal and corporate achievements. The compensation committee considered each executive officer's contributions to brand growth, cost management and long-term value creation for our shareholders for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, as well as the retention of our executive officers.

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, we granted a \$105,000 cash bonus to Mr. Glover; a \$70,000 cash bonus to Mr. Spillane; a \$70,000 cash bonus to Mr. Small; and a \$60,000 cash bonus to Ms. Peña.

In June 2016, we granted options to purchase 600,000 shares of common stock to Mr. Lampen, options to purchase 325,000 shares of common stock to Mr. Glover, options to purchase 300,000 shares of common stock to Mr. Andrews, options to purchase 200,000 shares of common stock to each of Mr. Spillane and Mr. Small and options to purchase 170,000 shares of common stock to Ms. Peña. The exercise price for these options is \$0.90 per share, the closing market price on the grant date. The foregoing options vest in four equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date.

Our compensation committee determined to award restricted stock awards, instead of option awards, beginning in April 2017. Accordingly, in April 2017, we granted 130,000 restricted shares of common stock to Mr. Glover, 120,000 restricted shares of common stock to Mr. Andrews, 90,000 restricted shares of common stock to each of Mr. Spillane and Mr. Small and 75,000 restricted shares of common stock to Ms. Peña. The foregoing restricted shares vest in four equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date, subject to certain exceptions. In lieu of a restricted stock grant to Mr. Lampen, in June 2017 Mr. Lampen received a retention award of \$400,000, which vests in two equal installments on March 31, 2018 and March 31, 2019. Under the terms of the retention award, Mr. Lampen is required to return 100% of the retention award after taxes if he voluntarily terminates his employment with us or is terminated with “Cause” (as defined in the retention award) prior to March 31, 2018. Mr. Lampen is required to return 50% of the retention award after taxes if he voluntarily terminates his employment with us or is terminated with “Cause” (as defined in the retention award) during the period from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. The retention award will be reported in the Summary Compensation Table during the years in which it vests based on his continued service.



### ***Risk Considerations in our Compensation Programs***

We have reviewed our compensation structures and policies as they pertain to risk and have determined that our compensation programs do not create or encourage the taking of risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our company.

### ***Material Tax Implications of Our Compensation Policy***

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, limits the deductibility on our tax return of compensation over \$1 million to any of our named executive officers unless, in general, the compensation is paid under a plan which is performance-related, non-discretionary and has been approved by our shareholders. Our compensation committee's policy with respect to section 162(m) is to make every reasonable effort to ensure that compensation is deductible to the extent permitted while simultaneously providing our executives with appropriate compensation for their performance. We did not pay any compensation during fiscal 2017 that would be subject to the limitations set forth in section 162(m). The exemption from section 162(m)'s deduction limit for performance-based compensation was repealed in December 2017, such that compensation paid to our named executive officers in excess of \$1 million will not be deductible unless it qualifies for transition relief.

### ***Consideration of Our Most Recent Shareholder Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation***

Last year, at our 2016 Annual Meeting, our shareholders cast an advisory vote on executive compensation, referred to as a "say-on-pay proposal", as required by Section 14A of the Exchange Act. At the 2016 Annual Meeting, 93% of the total votes cast were in favor of the say-on-pay proposal, and we have considered such approval an endorsement of our executive compensation philosophy and programs. Therefore, our executive compensation philosophy and programs have been confirmed and remain substantially unchanged since last year. The next say-on-pay proposal is included in this proxy statement for our 2017 Annual Meeting.

### ***Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation***

During fiscal 2017, each of John F. Beaudette, Dr. Richard M. Krasno and Steven D. Rubin served on our compensation committee, with Dr. Krasno serving as chairman. No member of the compensation committee during fiscal 2017 was an officer, employee or former officer of ours or any of our subsidiaries or had any relationship that would be considered a compensation committee interlock and would require disclosure pursuant to SEC rules and

regulations. None of our executive officers served as a member of a compensation committee or a director of another entity under the circumstances requiring disclosure pursuant to SEC rules and regulations.

### **Compensation Committee Report**

*The information contained in this Compensation Committee Report shall not be deemed “soliciting material” or “filed” with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any document we file with the SEC, or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, except to the extent that such report is specifically stated to be incorporated by reference into such document.*

In fulfilling our role, we met and held discussions with our company’s management and reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this proxy statement. Based on the review and discussions with management and our business judgment, we recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement for filing with the SEC.

Submitted by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors:

John F. Beaudette  
Dr. Richard M. Krasno, Chair  
Steven D. Rubin

**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table shows the compensation paid to our named executive officers for our 2017, 2016 and 2015 fiscal years.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Bonus	Option Awards (1)	All Other Compensation	Total
Richard J. Lampen President and chief executive officer	2017	—	—	\$342,000	—	\$342,000
	2016	—	—	550,000	—	550,000
	2015	—	—	310,000	—	310,000
John S. Glover Executive vice president and chief operating officer	2017	\$323,415	\$105,000	185,250	—	613,665
	2016	313,995	100,000	275,000	—	688,995
	2015	304,849	60,000	155,000	—	519,849
T. Kelley Spillane Senior vice president – global sales	2017	311,147	70,000	114,000	\$1,415	(2) 496,562
	2016	302,084	55,000	165,000	1,415	(2) 523,499
	2015	293,286	35,000	62,000	1,415	(2) 391,701
Alfred J. Small Senior vice president, chief financial officer, treasurer & secretary	2017	278,512	70,000	114,000	—	462,512
	2016	264,983	65,000	165,000	—	494,983
	2015	240,000	35,000	62,000	—	337,000
Alejandra Peña Senior vice president – marketing	2017	203,940	60,000	96,900	—	360,840
	2016	198,000	50,000	137,500	—	385,500
	2015	180,353	35,000	43,400	—	258,753

Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted for each of the three fiscal years ended March 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 as determined in accordance with ASC 718 “Compensation — Stock Compensation” (“ASC 718”), rather than an amount paid to or realized by the named executive officer. Under SEC rules, the (1) amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures relating to service-based vesting conditions. See note 12 to our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017 included in our annual report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on June 14, 2017, regarding the assumptions underlying the valuation of these grants. The ASC 718 amounts from these grants may never be realized by the named executive officer.

(2) Represents life insurance premiums paid by us for the benefit of Mr. Spillane.

**Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table**

**Material Terms of Named Executive Officers' Employment Agreements**

The material terms of Messrs. Glover's, Spillane's and Small's and Ms. Peña's employment agreements are described in the table below. Mr. Lampen, our president and chief executive officer, did not receive a salary or benefits from us for fiscal 2017 in connection with his service. Instead, we are party to a management services agreement with Vector Group Ltd., a more than 5% shareholder, under which Vector Group Ltd. agreed to make available to us Mr. Lampen's services. For a discussion of this agreement, see "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions — Related Party Transactions — Agreement with Vector Group Ltd." below.

**Certain Material Terms of Employment Agreements with Named Executive Officers**

Named Executive Officer	Date of Agreement	Current Annual Base Salary under the Agreement <sup>(1)</sup>	Performance Bonus Eligibility (as Percentage of Annual Base Salary)	Expiration Date of Agreement <sup>(2)</sup>	Duration of Severance Payments <sup>(3)</sup>
Richard J. Lampen	—	—	—	—	—
John S. Glover	4/7/2017	\$ 333,117	0-60	% 3/30/2020	24 months
T. Kelley Spillane	4/7/2017	320,481	0-60	% 3/30/2020	24 months
Alfred J. Small	4/7/2017	286,867	0-60	% 3/30/2020	24 months
Alejandra Peña	4/7/2017	210,058	0-30	% 3/30/2020	12 months

(1) Increases in Messrs. Glover's, Spillane's and Small's and Ms. Peña's base salaries are at the compensation committee's sole discretion.

(2) The agreements automatically renew for successive one (1) year terms, unless either party gives written notice of such party's intention not to renew no later than sixty (60) days prior to the end of each such term.

(3) Please see "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control" below for a full description of these severance obligations.

*Annual Incentives to Named Executive Officers*

We paid cash bonuses to our named executive officers for fiscal 2017 as follows: Mr. Glover – \$105,000, Mr. Spillane – \$70,000, Mr. Small – \$70,000 and Ms. Peña – \$60,000. We paid cash bonuses to our named executive officers for fiscal 2016 as follows: Mr. Glover – \$100,000, Mr. Spillane – \$55,000, Mr. Small – \$65,000 and Ms. Peña – \$50,000. We paid cash bonuses to our named executive officers for fiscal 2015 as follows: Mr. Glover – \$60,000, Mr. Spillane – \$35,000, Mr. Small – \$35,000 and Ms. Peña – \$35,000. These bonus payments are included in the Summary Compensation Table above under the heading “Bonus.”

Mr. Lampen did not receive a cash bonus for fiscal 2017, 2016 or 2015. In June 2017, Mr. Lampen received a retention award of \$400,000 in lieu of a restricted stock grant. The retention award will be reported in the Summary Compensation Table during the years in which it vests based on his continued service.

*Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal 2017*

The following table shows grants made to our named executive officers in fiscal 2017. The grant date fair value of option awards may not be realized by the individuals.

Name	Grant Date	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$)	Grant Date Fair Value of Option Award <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)
Richard Lampen	6/3/2016	600,000	\$ 0.90	\$342,000
John S. Glover	6/3/2016	325,000	\$ 0.90	\$185,250
T. Kelley Spillane	6/3/2016	200,000	\$ 0.90	\$114,000
Alfred J. Small	6/3/2016	200,000	\$ 0.90	\$114,000
Alejandra Peña	6/3/2016	170,000	\$ 0.90	\$96,900

(1) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017 in accordance with ASC 718, rather than the amount paid to or realized by the named executive officer. Under SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures relating to service-based vesting conditions. See note 12 to our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017 included in our annual report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on June 14, 2017, regarding the assumptions underlying the

valuation of these grants. The ASC 718 amounts from these grants may never be realized by the named executive officer.

*Outstanding Equity Awards at March 31, 2017 Fiscal Year End*

The following table summarizes the outstanding option awards held by our named executive officers at March 31, 2017.

Named Executive Officer	Option Awards		Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Unearned Options (#) Unexercisable		
Richard J. Lampen	700,000	—	\$ 0.35	11/3/2018
	400,000	—	\$ 0.35	6/11/2020
	500,000	—	\$ 0.33	6/20/2021
	500,000	—	\$ 0.31	6/8/2022
	375,000	125,000	(1) \$ 0.38	6/5/2023
	250,000	250,000	(2) \$ 1.00	5/28/2024
	125,000	375,000	(3) \$ 1.67	6/2/2025
—	600,000	(4) \$ 0.90	6/3/2026	
John S. Glover	60,000	—	\$ 1.90	1/24/2018
	15,400	—	\$ 0.21	6/9/2018
	50,000	—	\$ 0.35	6/22/2019
	225,000	—	\$ 0.35	6/11/2020
	250,000	—	\$ 0.33	6/20/2021
	250,000	—	\$ 0.31	6/8/2022
	187,500	62,500	(1) \$ 0.38	6/5/2023
	125,000	125,000	(2) \$ 1.00	5/28/2024
	62,500	187,500	(3) \$ 1.67	6/2/2025
—	325,000	(4) \$ 0.90	6/3/2026	
T. Kelley Spillane	33,900	—	\$ 0.21	6/9/2018
	35,000	—	\$ 0.35	6/22/2019
	65,000	—	\$ 0.35	6/11/2020
	17,100	—	\$ 0.35	12/7/2020
	44,650	—	\$ 0.31	6/15/2021
	20,800	—	\$ 0.26	12/19/2021
	43,333	—	\$ 0.28	6/13/2022
	85,000	—	\$ 0.38	6/5/2023
	50,000	50,000	(2) \$ 1.00	5/28/2024

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	37,500	112,500	(3) \$ 1.67	6/2/2025
	—	200,000	(4) \$ 0.90	6/3/2026
Alfred J. Small	25,000	—	\$ 0.35	6/22/2019
	65,000	—	\$ 0.35	6/11/2020
	65,000	—	\$ 0.33	6/20/2021
	75,000	—	\$ 0.31	6/8/2022
	63,750	21,250	(1) \$ 0.38	6/5/2023
	50,000	50,000	(2) \$ 1.00	5/28/2024
	37,500	112,500	(3) \$ 1.67	6/2/2025
	—	200,000	(4) \$ 0.90	6/3/2026
Alejandra Peña	25,000	—	\$ 0.26	9/6/2021
	20,000	—	\$ 0.31	6/8/2022
	37,500	12,500	(1) \$ 0.38	6/5/2023
	35,000	35,000	(2) \$ 1.00	5/28/2024
	31,250	93,750	(3) \$ 1.67	6/2/2025
	—	170,000	(4) \$ 0.90	6/3/2026



- (1) This option vests in four equal annual installments with the first installment vested on June 5, 2014.
- (2) This option vests in four equal annual installments with the first installment vested on May 28, 2015.
- (3) This option vests in four equal annual installments with the first installment vested on June 2, 2016.
- (4) This option vests in four equal annual installments with the first installment vested on June 3, 2017.

***Option Exercises and Stock Vested***

The following table sets forth information regarding the exercise of stock options and vesting of restricted stock for our named executive officers during fiscal 2017:

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
Richard J. Lampen	200,000	98,000	—	—
John S. Glover	—	—	—	—
T. Kelley Spillane	—	—	—	—
Alfred J. Small	—	—	—	—
Alejandra Peña	—	—	—	—

(1) Represents the difference between the exercise price and the market price of the common stock on the date of exercise for each option.

***Pension Benefits***

We do not provide pension benefits to our named executive officers.

### ***Nonqualified Deferred Compensation***

We do not maintain defined contribution or other plans providing for the deferral of compensation on a basis that is not tax qualified.

### ***Timing of Equity Grants***

For all of our employees, including our named executive officers, grants of equity-based compensation are effective on the date that our compensation committee approves them. All stock option grants to employees, including our named executive officers, are made with an exercise price at least equal to the fair market value of the underlying stock on the grant date. Our compensation committee does not grant equity compensation awards in anticipation of the release of material nonpublic information. Similarly, we do not time the release of material nonpublic information based on equity award grant dates.

### ***Severance and Change in Control Benefits***

We provide certain severance and change in control benefits to Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small and Ms. Peña. Information about these benefits is listed below under the heading “Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control.”

### ***Perquisites and Other Benefits***

We generally provide the same health and welfare benefits to all of our full-time employees, including our named executive officers, including health and dental coverage, disability insurance, and paid holidays and other paid time off.

We maintain a 401(k) retirement savings plan for the benefit of all of our full-time employees, including our named executive officers.

### ***Indemnification***

Our articles of incorporation, as amended, and bylaws require us to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Florida law. We also have entered into indemnity agreements with each of our directors and named executive officers.

### **Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control**

The following describes the potential payments upon termination or a change in control for our named executive officers pursuant to their current employment agreements entered into in April 2017. These employment agreements supersede the employment agreements that were in effect during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, which were previously described in our filings with the SEC.

### ***Termination Without Cause***

Each of Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small and Ms. Peña has an employment agreement with us that provides for potential payments in the event of their termination.

Under Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small's employment agreements, if we terminate the executive's employment without "cause," we have agreed to pay the executive his annual base salary, a bonus equal to the bonus paid for the period immediately prior to the termination and to provide benefits, including medical insurance, for 24 months following termination. Under Ms. Peña's employment agreement, if we terminate her employment without "cause," we have agreed to pay her annual base salary, a bonus equal to the bonus paid for the period immediately prior to the termination and to provide benefits, including medical insurance, for 12 months following termination.

Also, if we terminate any of the executives without “cause,” then such executive is entitled to accelerated vesting or other treatment of some or all of the stock awards granted to such executive under the terms of such executive’s employment agreement.

Subject to their compliance with the terms of their respective employment agreements, for Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small, any tranche of unvested shares or options held by the executive that would have vested during the 24 month period following termination will accelerate and vest without any further action of any kind by our company or the executive. Further, any stock option held by the executive that is vested at the time of the executive’s termination will be exercisable until the earlier to occur of (i) the expiration date of such option pursuant to its terms and (ii) 24 months following the date of termination. Subject to her compliance with the terms of her employment agreement, for Ms. Peña, any tranche of unvested shares or options held by her that would have vested during the 12 month period following termination will accelerate and vest without any further action of any kind by our company or Ms. Peña. Further, any stock option held by Ms. Peña that is vested at the time of her termination will be exercisable until the earlier to occur of (i) the expiration date of such option pursuant to its terms and (ii) 12 months following the date of termination.

Per the employment agreements, “cause” is defined as the executive’s (i) having committed in the performance of his or her duties under the agreement one or more acts or omissions constituting fraud, dishonesty, or willful injury to our company which results in a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of our company, (ii) having committed one or more acts constituting gross neglect or willful misconduct which results in a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of our company, (iii) breach of his or her fiduciary duties, (iv) failure to substantially perform assigned duties relating to executive’s performance under the agreement (other than any such failure owing to the executive becoming disabled as reasonably determined by a majority of our compensation committee, after consultation with our chief executive officer), (v) conviction of, or the entry by the executive of any plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any felony, or (vi) material breach of any provision of the employment agreement as reasonably determined by our compensation committee, after consultation with our chief executive officer, subject to a thirty (30) day cure period.

### ***Non-Renewal of Employment Agreement***

If we do not renew the employment agreements with Messrs. Glover, Spillane or Small, then such executive is entitled to receive his annual base salary, a bonus equal to the bonus paid for the period immediately prior to the termination and benefits, including medical insurance, for 24 months following termination. If we do not renew the employment agreement with Ms. Peña, then she is entitled to receive her annual base salary, a bonus equal to the bonus paid for the period immediately prior to the termination and benefits, including medical insurance, for 12 months following termination.

***Termination Due to Death or Disability***

The employment agreements of Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small and Ms. Peña each provide that, in each case, if we terminate such executive due to a “disability,” or if such executive’s employment is terminated as a result of such executive’s death, the executive will be entitled to any salary owed to the executive through the date of termination, bonus for the year in which the termination occurred, and base salary for the duration of such executive’s severance period (24 months in the case of Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small and 12 months in the case of Ms. Peña). Further, all stock options and restricted stock awards held by the executive will fully vest and be exercisable for a period of two (2) years from date of termination for death or disability in the case of Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small and one (1) year in the case of Ms. Peña. For each of our named executive officers, a “disability” is defined in the employment agreements as the executive becoming physically or mentally disabled or incapacitated to the extent that the executive has been or will be unable to perform the duties under the employment agreement on account of such disabilities or incapacitation for a continuous period of six (6) months as determined by a qualified independent physician or group of physicians selected by our company and approved by the executive or his or her representative.

***Termination by Employee with Good Reason***

Each of Messrs. Glover’s, Spillane’s and Small’s employment agreements provides that if he terminates his employment for “good reason,” we have agreed to pay the executive his annual base salary, a bonus equal to the bonus paid for the period immediately prior to the termination and to provide benefits, including medical insurance, for 24 months following termination. Under Ms. Peña’s employment agreement, if she terminates her employment for “good reason,” we have agreed to pay her annual base salary, a bonus equal to the bonus paid for the period immediately prior to the termination and to provide benefits, including medical insurance, for 12 months following termination.

Subject to their compliance with the terms of their respective employment agreements, for Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small, any tranche of unvested shares or options held by the executive that would have vested during the 24 month period following termination for “good reason” will accelerate and vest without any further action of any kind by our company or the executive. Further, any stock option held by the executive that is vested at the time of the executive’s termination for “good reason” will be exercisable until the earlier to occur of (i) the expiration date of such option pursuant to its terms and (ii) 24 months following the date of termination. Subject to her compliance with the terms of her employment agreement, for Ms. Peña, any tranche of unvested shares or options held by her that would have vested during the 12 month period following termination for “good reason” will accelerate and vest without any further action of any kind by our company or Ms. Peña. Further, any stock option held by Ms. Peña that is vested at the time of her termination for “good reason” will be exercisable until the earlier to occur of (i) the expiration date of such option pursuant to its terms and (ii) 12 months following the date of termination.

Per the agreements, “good reason” means a termination by executive of such executive’s employment within sixty (60) days after (i) any material diminution in the nature, title, base salary, target incentive bonus opportunity as a percentage of base salary or status of such executive’s job responsibilities from those in effect on the effective date of executive’s employment agreement or the most recent anniversary thereof, (ii) relocation by our company of the executive’s office to any location not within fifty (50) miles from executive’s principal place of employment in New York City as of the effective date of the executive’s employment agreement or (iii) our company’s material breach of any provision of the executive’s employment agreement which is not cured within thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from executive to our company.

Any severance payments to Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small and Ms. Peña described above under “Termination Without Cause,” “Non-Renewal of Employment Agreement,” “Termination Due to Death or Disability” and “Termination by Employee with Good Reason” are in consideration of the non-compete provisions contained in such named executive officer’s employment agreement.

Each of Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small is prohibited from, during the term of his employment and for 18 months thereafter, (i) soliciting employees to terminate their employment, (ii) soliciting business from our customers or (iii) ownership of, or employment or consultation with, competing companies. Ms. Peña is prohibited from, during the term of her employment and for 12 months thereafter, (i) soliciting employees to terminate their employment, (ii) soliciting business from our customers or (iii) ownership of, or employment or consultation with, competing companies.

### ***Change in Control***

If any of Messrs. Glover, Spillane or Small or Ms. Peña is terminated within two years after any “change of control” (as defined below), either by the executive for “good reason” or by our company or its successor without “cause,” the

executive will be paid a lump sum payment equal to two times such executive's base salary and bonus (in the case of Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small) or one time such executive's base salary and bonus (in the case of Ms. Peña). The executive will also be entitled to participate in all benefit plans during such executive's severance period. Unvested shares or options held by each executive would accelerate as described above under "Termination by Employee with Good Reason" or "Termination Without Cause," as applicable.

For Messrs. Glover, Spillane and Small and Ms. Peña, a "change of control" is defined as: (i) any person (as such term is used in Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act), other than Dr. Phillip Frost, any member of his immediate family, and any "person" or "group" (as used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) that is controlled by Dr. Frost or any member of his immediate family, any beneficiary of the estate of Dr. Frost, or any trust, partnership, corporate or other entity controlled by any of the foregoing, becomes the "beneficial owner" (as determined pursuant to Rule 13d-3 of the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of securities of our company representing more than thirty-five percent (35%) of the aggregate voting power of our company's then outstanding securities, other than by acquisition directly from our company; (ii) there has been a merger or equivalent combination involving our company after which forty-nine percent (49%) or more of the voting stock of the surviving corporation is held by persons other than former shareholders of our company; (iii) during any period of two consecutive years, individuals who at the beginning of such period were members of our board of directors cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority thereof (unless the appointment, election, or the nomination for election by our stockholders, of each director elected during such consecutive two-year period was approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the directors then still in office who were directors at the beginning of such period); or (iv) our company sells or disposes of all or substantially all of its assets.

The following table quantifies for each named executive officer the estimated potential severance payments and benefits that would be provided, if each termination circumstance set forth below occurred on March 31, 2017 (assuming the current employment agreement for each named executive officer was in effect on such date).

Named Executive Officer	Severance Payment (1)	Estimated Value of Benefits (2)	Benefit of Acceleration for Vesting of Option Awards (3)
<b>Richard J. Lampen</b>			
Termination without cause/with good reason	—	—	—
Non-renewal of employment agreement	—	—	—
Termination due to death/disability	—	—	—
Change in control	—	—	\$ 361,250
<b>John S. Glover</b>			
Termination without cause/with good reason	\$ 876,234	\$ 44,388	192,813
Non-renewal of employment agreement	876,234	44,388	192,813
Termination due to death/disability	771,234	N/A	192,813
Change in control	876,234	44,388	192,813
<b>T. Kelley Spillane</b>			
Termination without cause/with good reason	780,963	63,151	111,250
Non-renewal of employment agreement	780,963	63,151	111,250
Termination due to death/disability	710,963	N/A	111,250
Change in control	780,963	63,151	111,250
<b>Alfred J. Small</b>			
Termination without cause/with good reason	713,735	63,151	111,250
Non-renewal of employment agreement	713,735	63,151	111,250
Termination due to death/disability	643,735	N/A	111,250
Change in control	713,735	63,151	111,250
<b>Alejandra Peña</b>			
Termination without cause/with good reason	263,940	31,576	92,500
Non-renewal of employment agreement	263,940	31,576	92,500
Termination due to death/disability	263,940	N/A	92,500
Change in control	263,940	31,576	92,500

(1) Severance payments (including bonus) would be paid out over the duration of the severance period, except in the case of a change in control wherein payment would be made in a lump sum.

(2) Estimated using the value of COBRA payments at the rates in effect on March 31, 2017.

(3) The estimated amount of benefit was calculated by multiplying the number of options that would accelerate vesting upon the termination circumstance indicated by the difference between the closing price of our common stock on March 31, 2017, which was \$1.55, and the exercise price of the stock option. This column shows a



benefit for each of Messrs. Lampen, Glover, Spillane and Small and Ms. Peña due to the accelerated vesting of option awards granted to each such named executive officer.

### **Director Compensation**

The following table summarizes compensation paid to directors during our 2017 fiscal year.

**Fiscal 2017 Director Compensation**

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Option Awards Includes Prior Fiscal Years) <sup>(1)</sup>	Total
Mark E. Andrews, III	— <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 171,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 171,000
John Beaudette	\$ 15,000	12,400 <sup>(3)</sup>	27,400
Henry C. Beinstein	17,500	12,400 <sup>(4)</sup>	29,900
Phillip Frost, M.D.	10,000	12,400 <sup>(5)</sup>	22,400
Dr. Richard M. Krasno	17,500	12,400 <sup>(6)</sup>	29,900
Richard J. Lampen	— <sup>(7)</sup>	—	—
Steven D. Rubin	20,000	12,400 <sup>(8)</sup>	32,400
Mark Zeitchick	12,500	12,400 <sup>(9)</sup>	24,900

Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017 in accordance with ASC 718, rather than the amount paid to or realized by the director. Under SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures relating to service-based vesting conditions. See note (1) 12 to our consolidated financial statements for fiscal 2017 included in our annual report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on June 14, 2017, regarding the assumptions underlying the valuation of these option grants. The ASC 718 amounts from these grants may never be realized.

Mr. Andrews, our chairman, receives an annual salary of \$100,000. We do not pay any additional cash (2) compensation for his services as a director. As of March 31, 2017, Mr. Andrews held options to purchase 1,775,000 shares of our common stock.

(3) As of March 31, 2017, Mr. Beaudette held options to purchase 172,000 shares of our common stock.

(4) As of March 31, 2017, Mr. Beinstein held options to purchase 140,000 shares of our common stock.

(5) As of March 31, 2017, Dr. Frost held options to purchase 80,000 shares of our common stock.

(6) As of March 31, 2017, Dr. Krasno held options to purchase 140,000 shares of our common stock.

(7) Mr. Lampen, our president and chief executive officer, receives no additional compensation for his services as a director.

(8) As of March 31, 2017, Mr. Rubin held options to purchase 240,000 shares of our common stock.

(9) As of March 31, 2017, Mr. Zeitchick held options to purchase 160,000 shares of our common stock.

Our board of directors believes that compensation for our non-employee directors should be a combination of cash and equity-based compensation. Employee directors are not paid for their service on the board of directors and only receive compensation as employees.

In December 2008, effective with the 2008 annual meeting, our board of directors approved the payment of annual compensation of our non-employee directors comprised of cash and options granted under our stock incentive plans, as set forth in the following table:

Type of Compensation	Amount
Annual director retainer (paid quarterly)	\$10,000
Additional annual retainer for committee participants, except chairs (paid quarterly)	\$2,500
Additional annual retainer for committee chairs (paid quarterly)	\$5,000
Option to purchase shares of our common stock upon initial election	100,000 shares
Additional options to purchase shares of our common stock for board service (per director, per year)	20,000 shares
Reimbursement of expenses related to board attendance	Reasonable expenses reimbursed as incurred

## **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

### **Related Party Policy**

Our code of conduct requires us to avoid related party transactions that could result in actual or potential conflicts of interest, except under guidelines approved by our board of directors or audit committee. Related-party transactions are defined as transactions in which:

the aggregate amount involved is expected to exceed \$120,000 in any calendar year;

we or any of our subsidiaries is a participant; and

any (a) executive officer, director or director nominee, (b) 5% or greater beneficial owner of our common stock or (c) immediate family member, of the persons listed in clauses (a) and (b), has or will have a material interest (other than solely as a result of being a director or a less than 10% beneficial owner of another entity).

A conflict of interest can arise when a person takes actions or has interests that may make it difficult for such person to perform his or her work objectively and effectively. Conflicts of interest may also arise if a person, or a member of his or her family, receives improper personal benefits as a result of his or her position. Our audit committee, under its charter, reviews and approves related-party transactions to the extent we enter into such transactions.

The audit committee considers all relevant factors when determining whether to approve a related party transaction, including:

whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable to us than terms generally available to an unaffiliated third-party under the same or similar circumstances; and

the extent of the related party's interest in the transaction.

A director may not participate in the approval of any transaction in which he or she is a related party, but must provide the audit committee with all material information concerning the transaction. Also, we require each of our directors and executive officers to complete a directors' and officers' questionnaire annually that elicits information about related-party transactions. These procedures are intended to determine whether any such related party transaction impairs the independence of a director or presents a conflict of interest on the part of a director, employee or officer.

### **Related Party Transactions**

#### ***Agreement with Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc.***

In November 2008, we entered into an agreement to reimburse Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. for its costs in providing certain administrative, legal and financial services to us. Mr. Lampen, our president and chief executive officer and a director, is the president and chief executive officer and a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. Dr. Frost, one of our directors and our principal shareholder, is the chairman and principal shareholder of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. Mr. Beinstein and Dr. Krasno, two of our directors, are directors of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. Mr. Zeitchick, one of our directors, is an executive vice president and a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. was paid \$128,625 under this agreement.

***Agreement with Vector Group Ltd.***

In November 2008, we entered into a management services agreement with Vector Group Ltd., a more than 5% shareholder of ours, under which Vector Group agreed to make available to us the services of Mr. Lampen, Vector Group's executive vice president, effective October 11, 2008 to serve as our president and chief executive officer and to provide certain other financial and accounting services, including assistance with corporate taxes and complying with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. In consideration for such services, we agreed to pay Vector Group an annual fee of \$100,000, plus any direct, out-of-pocket costs, fees and other expenses incurred by Vector Group or Mr. Lampen in connection with providing such services, and to indemnify Vector Group for any liabilities arising out of the provision of the services. The agreement is terminable by either party upon 30 days' prior written notice. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, we paid Vector Group \$110,846 under this agreement. Mr. Beinstein, a director of our company, is also a director of Vector Group and Dr. Frost, a director of ours and our principal shareholder, is a principal shareholder of Vector Group.

***Loans from Certain Executive Officers, Directors and Shareholders***

In October 2013, we entered into a 5% Convertible Subordinated Note Purchase Agreement, which we refer to as the Note Purchase Agreement, with the lending parties thereto, which provides for the issuance of an aggregate initial principal amount of \$2.1 million unsecured subordinated notes, which we refer to as the Convertible Notes. The lending parties include certain related parties of ours, including an affiliate of Dr. Frost (\$500,000), a director of ours and our principal shareholder, Mr. Andrews (\$50,000), our chairman, an affiliate of Mr. Lampen (\$50,000), a director of ours and our president and chief executive officer, an affiliate of Mr. Halpryn (\$200,000), a former director of ours, and Vector Group Ltd. (\$200,000), a more than 5% shareholder of ours, of which Mr. Lampen is an executive officer, Mr. Beinstein is a director and Dr. Frost is a principal shareholder. We used a portion of the proceeds to finance the acquisition of additional bourbon inventory in support of the growth of our Jefferson's bourbon brand.

The Convertible Notes bear interest at a rate of 5% per annum, payable quarterly on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 of each year beginning on December 15, 2013 until their maturity date of December 15, 2018. The Convertible Notes and accrued but unpaid interest thereon are convertible in whole or in part from time to time at the option of the holders thereof into shares of our common stock at a conversion price of \$0.90 per share, which we refer to as the Conversion Price. The Convertible Notes may be prepaid in whole or in part at any time without penalty or premium, but with payment of accrued interest to the date of prepayment. The Convertible Notes contain customary events of default, which, if uncured, entitle each noteholder to accelerate the due date of the unpaid principal amount of, and all accrued and unpaid interest on, the Convertible Notes. The issuance of the Convertible Notes closed on October 31, 2013.

We may forcibly convert all or any part of the Convertible Notes and all accrued but unpaid interest thereon if (i) the average daily volume of our common stock (as reported on the principal market or exchange on which the common stock is listed or quoted for trading) exceeds \$50,000 per trading day and (ii) the volume weighted average price of the common stock for at least twenty (20) trading days during any thirty (30) consecutive trading day period exceeds 250% of the then-current Conversion Price. Any forced conversion will be applied ratably to the holders of all Convertible Notes issued pursuant to the Note Purchase Agreement based on each holder's then-current note holdings.

As of January 11, 2018, an aggregate of \$0.8 million, consisting of \$0.8 million of principal and \$2,813 of accrued interest, was outstanding under the Convertible Notes. No amount of principal was paid on the Convertible Notes during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, we paid the following amounts of interest to the related party holders of the Convertible Notes: an affiliate of Dr. Frost (\$25,000), Mr. Andrews (\$2,500), an affiliate of Mr. Lampen (\$2,500) and Vector Group Ltd. (\$10,000). In November 2017, each of Mr. Andrews and the affiliate of Mr. Lampen converted the Convertible Notes held by them into shares of common stock, pursuant to the terms of the Convertible Notes.

In August 2015, we entered into amendments (together, the "Amendments") to our Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement with ACF FinCo I LP (the "Amended Loan Agreement"). The Amendments provided for a sublimit to our revolving credit facility in the maximum principal amount of \$7.0 million to permit us to acquire aged whiskey inventory (the "Purchased Inventory Sublimit"), subject to certain conditions set forth in the Amended Loan Agreement. The Purchased Inventory Sublimit replaced a term loan of \$2.5 million with the predecessor entity of ACF FinCo I LP, which was paid in full in May 2015 in the normal course of business. The interest rate applicable to the Purchased Inventory Sublimit is the rate that, when annualized, is the greatest of (a) the Prime Rate plus 4.25%, (b) the LIBOR Rate plus 6.75% and (c) 7.50%. The Purchased Inventory Sublimit currently bears interest at 7.50%.

ACF required as a condition to entering into the Amendments that ACF had entered into a participation agreement providing for an aggregate of \$900,000 of the initial \$3.0 million principal amount of the Purchased Inventory Sublimit to be purchased by junior participants. Certain related parties of ours purchased a portion of these junior participations in the Purchased Inventory Sublimit, including an affiliate of Dr. Frost (\$150,000), Mr. Andrews (\$50,000), an affiliate of Mr. Lampen (\$100,000), Brian L. Heller, our General Counsel and Assistant Secretary (\$42,500) and Mr. Small (\$15,000). Under the terms of the participation agreement, the junior participants receive interest at the rate of 11% per annum. The participation agreement provides that ACF's commitment to fund each advance of the Purchased Inventory Sublimit will be limited to seventy percent (70%), up to an aggregate maximum principal amount for all such advances equal to \$4.9 million. We are not a party to the participation agreement. However, we are party to a fee letter with the junior participants (including the related party junior participants) pursuant to which we were obligated to pay the junior participants a closing fee of \$18,000 and are obligated to pay a commitment fee of \$18,000 on each anniversary of the effective date of the Amendments until the junior participants' obligations are terminated pursuant to the participation agreement. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, we paid the following amounts of principal to related parties under the participation agreement: an affiliate of Dr. Frost (\$81,770), Mr. Andrews (\$27,257), an affiliate of Mr. Lampen (\$54,413), Mr. Heller (\$23,169) and Mr. Small (\$8,177). During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, we paid the following amounts of interest to related parties under the participation agreement: an affiliate of Dr. Frost (\$12,028), Mr. Andrews (\$4,009), an affiliate of Mr. Lampen (\$8,019), Mr. Heller (\$3,408) and Mr. Small (\$1,203).

In October 2016, we acquired \$1,553,400 in aged bulk bourbon, including \$1,440,000 purchased under the Purchased Inventory Sublimit, with certain related parties, including an affiliate of Dr. Frost (\$72,000), Mr. Andrews (\$24,000), an affiliate of Mr. Lampen (\$48,000), Mr. Heller (\$20,400) and Mr. Small (\$7,200), as junior participants in the Purchased Inventory Sublimit with respect to such purchase.

In October 2017, we acquired \$1,308,125 in aged bulk bourbon, purchased under the Purchased Inventory Sublimit, with certain related parties, including an affiliate of Dr. Frost (\$65,406), Mr. Andrews (\$21,802), an affiliate of Mr. Lampen (\$43,604), Mr. Heller (\$18,532) and Mr. Small (\$6,540), as junior participants in the Purchased Inventory Sublimit with respect to such purchase.

In December 2017, we acquired \$900,425 in aged bulk bourbon, purchased under the Purchased Inventory Sublimit, with certain related parties, including an affiliate of Dr. Frost (\$45,021), Mr. Andrews (\$15,007), an affiliate of Mr. Lampen (\$30,014), Mr. Heller (\$12,756) and Mr. Small (\$4,502), as junior participants in the Purchased Inventory Sublimit with respect to such purchase.

As of January 11, 2018, an aggregate of \$0.6 million, consisting of \$0.6 million of principal and \$1,544 of accrued interest, was outstanding to related parties under the Purchased Inventory Sublimit.



In March 2017, we issued a promissory note to Frost Nevada Investments Trust (the “Holder”), in the aggregate principal amount of \$20.0 million (the “Subordinated Note”). The purpose of the Subordinated Note was to finance the acquisition of an additional 20.1% of Gosling-Castle Partners, Inc. The Subordinated Note bears interest quarterly at the rate of 11% per annum. The principal and interest accrued thereon is due and payable in full on March 15, 2019. All claims of the Holder to principal, interest and any other amounts owed under the Subordinated Note are subordinated in right of payment to all indebtedness of our company existing as of the date of the Subordinated Note. The Subordinated Note contains customary events of default and may be prepaid by us, in whole or in part, without penalty, at any time. As of January 11, 2018, an aggregate of \$20.2 million, consisting of \$20.0 million of principal and \$0.2 of accrued interest, was outstanding pursuant to the Subordinated Note.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our officers, directors and persons who beneficially own more than ten percent of our common stock to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC. These reporting persons are also required to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. To our knowledge, based solely on our review of the copies of these forms furnished to us and representations made to us that no other reports were required, we are not aware of any late or delinquent filings required under Section 16(a) with respect to the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017.

### **Independent Auditors**

EisnerAmper LLP was our independent auditor for fiscal 2017 and will serve in that capacity for the 2018 fiscal year unless our audit committee deems it advisable to make a substitution. Representatives of EisnerAmper LLP are expected to be present at our 2017 annual meeting. The representatives of EisnerAmper LLP will have the opportunity to make statements and will be available to respond to appropriate questions from shareholders.

### **Solicitation of Proxies**

We are paying the cost of soliciting proxies. Besides the use of the mails, we may solicit proxies by personal interview, telephone or similar means. No director, officer or employee will be specially compensated for these activities. We will reimburse banks, brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for expenses incurred in sending proxy material to beneficial owners of our stock.

### **Submission of Future Shareholder Proposals**

Shareholder proposals to be presented at our 2018 annual meeting of shareholders must be received by us no later than September 18, 2018 and must otherwise comply with applicable SEC requirements to be considered for inclusion in the proxy statement and proxy for the 2018 annual meeting. Each proposal should include the exact language of the proposal, a brief description of the matter and the reasons for the proposal, the name and address of the shareholder making the proposal and the disclosure of that shareholder's number of shares of common stock owned, length of ownership of the shares, representation that the shareholder will continue to own the shares through the shareholder meeting, intention to appear in person or by proxy at the shareholder meeting and material interest, if any, in the matter being proposed.

Shareholders who do not wish to submit a proposal for inclusion in our proxy materials relating to our 2018 annual meeting in accordance with SEC Rule 14a-8 may submit a proposal for consideration at the 2018 annual meeting in accordance with our bylaws. Such shareholders must provide timely notice in writing in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. To be timely under such laws, a shareholder's notice must be delivered to or mailed and received at our principal executive offices not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days prior to the anniversary date of the meeting. Accordingly, for our 2018 annual meeting, proposals must be received at our principal executive offices not earlier than December 1, 2018 and not later than December 31, 2018. However, if the 2018 annual meeting is called for a date that is not within 30 days before or after the anniversary date of the meeting, notice by the shareholder in order to be timely must be received not later than the close of business on the tenth day following the date on which notice of the date of the 2018 annual meeting is mailed to shareholders or made public, whichever first occurs. Our

bylaws also specify requirements as to the form and content of a shareholder's notice. These provisions may preclude shareholders from bringing matters before an annual meeting of shareholders.

Shareholder proposals should be addressed to Castle Brands Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 122 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 5000, New York, New York 10168.

### **Communications with our Board of Directors**

Any shareholder or other interested party wishing to communicate with our board of directors may do so by sending written communications addressed to the Corporate Secretary, Castle Brands Inc., 122 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 5000, New York, New York 10168 or by email to *info@castlebrandsinc.com*. Communications emailed to this address are automatically forwarded to all members of the board of directors. Written communications received by the Corporate Secretary are reviewed for appropriateness. Our Corporate Secretary, in accordance with company policy, at his discretion may elect not to forward items that are deemed commercial, frivolous or otherwise inappropriate for consideration by the board of directors. In such cases, correspondence may be forwarded elsewhere for review and possible response.

### **Discretionary Voting of Proxies**

Under SEC Rule 14a-4, our management may exercise discretionary voting authority under proxies it solicits and obtains for our 2017 annual meeting of shareholders with respect to any proposal presented by a shareholder at such meeting, without any discussion of the proposal in our proxy statement for such meeting, unless we receive notice of such proposal at our principal office in New York, New York, a reasonable time before we send our proxy materials for the current year.

### **Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting To Be Held on March 1, 2018**

This proxy statement and our 2017 annual report are available at <https://materials.proxyvote.com/148435100>.

### **Other Business**

We are not aware of any other business to be presented at the meeting. If matters not described herein should properly come before the meeting, the persons named in the accompanying proxy will use their discretion to vote on such matters in accordance with their best judgment.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Richard J. Lampen,  
President and Chief Executive Officer

New York, New York

January 16, 2018





