

# Section 1: S-3ASR (FORM S-3ASR)

[Table of Contents](#)

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 24, 2019

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**ProAssurance Corporation**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**63-1261433**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification Number)

**100 Brookwood Place  
Birmingham, Alabama 35209  
(205) 877-4400**  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**W. Stancil Starnes  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
ProAssurance Corporation  
100 Brookwood Place  
Birmingham, Alabama 35209  
(205) 877-4400**  
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being registered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller Reporting Company	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new

or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee</b>
Common Stock, Preferred Stock and Debt Securities	(1)

(1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price and amount of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant defers payment of all registration fees that may be payable.



---

# ProAssurance Corporation

---

## Common Stock Preferred Stock Debt Securities

---

We may offer and sell, from time to time:

- shares of our common stock;
- shares of our preferred stock; and
- our debt securities

We may not use this prospectus to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement or a prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

This prospectus describes general terms that may apply to these securities. When we decide to sell a particular class or series of those securities, we will provide the specific terms of the securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus, one or more post-effective amendments to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part or in documents incorporated into this prospectus by reference. The terms of the securities will include the initial offering price, the aggregate amount of the offering, listing on any securities exchange or quotation system, investment considerations, and the underwriters, dealers and agents, if any, involved in the sale of the securities. We urge you to read carefully this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, and any documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus carefully before you invest.

---

Shares of our common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "PRA".

---

**Investing in our securities involves risk. You should consider the "[Risk Factors](#)" described on page 2 herein and, if applicable, in risk factors described in any accompanying prospectus supplement, any prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement and in the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.**

---

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities, or passed on the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

---

The date of this prospectus is May 24, 2019.

---

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	2
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>PROASSURANCE CORPORATION</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	6
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	7
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	10
<u>INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE</u>	22
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	23
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	24
<u>EXPERTS</u>	24

---

[Table of Contents](#)

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

References in this prospectus to “ProAssurance,” “we,” “us” “our” and the “Company” refer to ProAssurance Corporation, an insurance holding company incorporated in the State of Delaware, and its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) using an “automatic shelf” registration process for “well-known seasoned issuers,” in accordance with General Instruction I.D. of Form S-3 Registration Statement. Under the automatic shelf process, we may sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, the common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities described in this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement, or a prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, which will contain, or will indicate where you can obtain specific information about the terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement, the prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment, and any documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus may also add to, update or change the information contained in this prospectus; and to the extent such information differs in any way from information set forth in this prospectus, you should rely on information set forth in the prospectus supplement, in the prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment, and in any documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should read carefully this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, the prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment, and/or in any documents we incorporate by reference, together with additional information described below, under “Information Incorporated By Reference.”

You should read both this prospectus and any future prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described below under “Where You Can Find More Information.” You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, or a prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus used by us, or the prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, and in any prospectus supplement or any prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment, as well as the information we file with the SEC and incorporated by reference herein, is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of the applicable document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

**RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves risk. Please see the risk factors described in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider such risks as well as updates to such risk factors, if any, included in our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and the other information we incorporate by reference into this prospectus. Additional risk factors may be included in a prospectus supplement relating to an offering of a particular class or series of securities, or included in a prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment relating to such an offering.

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Statements made in this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement hereto, and in any documents incorporated by reference herein or therein, concerning our future results and performance and other matters not directly related to historical information are “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). The words “anticipates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “expects,” “hopes,” “hopeful,” “plans,” “intends,” “may,” “should,” “will” and similar expressions are intended, but are not the exclusive means, to identify these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements include among other things statements concerning: liquidity and capital requirements, investment valuation and performance, return on equity, financial ratios, net income, premiums, losses and loss reserves, premium rates and retention of current business, competition and market conditions, the expansion of product lines, the development or acquisition of business, the availability of acceptable reinsurance, actions by regulators and rating agencies, court actions, legislative actions, payment or performance of obligations under debt or other contractual obligations, payment of dividends, and other matters.

These forward-looking statements are based upon our estimates and anticipation of future events; however, there are numerous factors, risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical or expected results described in the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to those referenced under the heading “Risk Factors” in this prospectus. Due to such risks and uncertainties, you are urged not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ from those predicted will be discussed in the reports that we file with the SEC on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K, which are incorporated by reference herein and in prospectus supplements and other offering materials. All forward-looking statements included in this prospectus are based upon information available to us on the date hereof; and we undertake no obligation, other than as may be required under the federal securities laws, to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.



## PROASSURANCE CORPORATION

We are a holding company for property and casualty insurance companies. Our vision is to be the best in the world at understanding and providing solutions for the risks our customers encounter as healers, innovators, employers, and professionals. Our wholly-owned insurance subsidiaries provide professional liability insurance for healthcare professionals and facilities, professional liability insurance for attorneys, liability insurance for medical technology and life sciences risks, and workers' compensation insurance. We are also the majority capital provider for Lloyd's of London Syndicate 1729, which writes a range of property and casualty insurance and reinsurance lines. We are also the sole (100%) capital provider to a special purpose arrangement, Syndicate 6131, which is only allowed to underwrite one quota share reinsurance contract with Syndicate 1729 and focuses on contingency and specialty property business. Through an integrated family of specialty companies, products and services, we will be a trusted partner enabling those we serve to focus on their vital work.

We were incorporated in Delaware in 2001 as the successor to Medical Assurance, Inc. in conjunction with its merger with Professionals Group, Inc. We have a history of growth through acquisitions, and we expect our long-term growth to come through controlled expansion of our existing operations and through the acquisition of other specialty insurance companies or books of business. Growth through acquisition is often opportunistic and cannot be predicted.

Our main business objective is to generate attractive total return for our stockholders. The basic components of our strategy for achieving this objective are as follows:

- *Provide specialized healthcare-centric expertise to meet evolving demands in the healthcare marketplace.* Through our focus on healthcare, we provide traditional liability insurance products to healthcare providers. We also leverage our reach, expertise and financial strength to provide innovative and customized products to meet the risk management needs of larger healthcare organizations or groups.
- *Provide superior workers' compensation products and services.* We provide workers' compensation products and services that focus on increasing an organization's productivity while reducing costs. We do this by providing innovative programs and solutions that address the specific needs of our customers and return injured workers to wellness.
- *Provide superior customer service.* Our mission statement, "We exist to Protect Others," goes hand-in-hand with our corporate brand promise, "Treated Fairly." Our employees demonstrate our core values of integrity, leadership, relationships and enthusiasm every day and are focused on meeting the needs of our customers.
- *Effectively manage capital.* We carefully monitor use of our capital and consider various options for capital deployment, such as business expansion by our existing subsidiaries, opportunities that arise for mergers or acquisitions, share repurchases and payment of dividends.
- *Pursue profitable underwriting opportunities.* We emphasize profitability, not market share. Key elements of our approach are prudent risk selection using established underwriting guidelines, appropriate pricing, and adjusting our business mix as appropriate to effectively utilize capital and achieve market synergies.
- *Emphasize risk management.* We actively manage our enterprise risk by maintaining strong internal controls. We also emphasize the importance of risk management to our insureds and offer them training in the use of risk reduction tools and techniques.
- *Manage claims effectively.* Our experienced claims teams have industry and insurance expertise that, with our extensive local knowledge, allows us to resolve claims in an effective manner, considering the circumstances of each claim. When practicable, we utilize formalized claims management processes and protocols as a means of reducing claim costs.

---

## Table of Contents

- *Maintain a conservative investment strategy.* We believe that we follow a conservative investment strategy designed to emphasize the preservation of our capital and provide adequate liquidity for the prompt payment of claims. Our investment portfolio consists primarily of investment-grade, fixed-maturity securities of short-to medium-term duration.
- *Maintain financial stability.* We are committed to maintaining financial strength and adequate capital.

Our executive offices are located at 100 Brookwood Place, Birmingham, Alabama 35209; and our telephone number is (205) 877-4400. Our stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol "PRA." Our website is [www.ProAssurance.com](http://www.ProAssurance.com), and we maintain a dedicated Investor Relations section on our website ([Investor.ProAssurance.com](http://Investor.ProAssurance.com)) to provide specialized resources for investors and others seeking to learn more about us.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the offered securities for general corporate purposes, which may include, without limitation, the following purposes:

- contribute capital to insurance subsidiaries;
- provide working capital;
- make acquisitions;
- purchase equity or fixed income investments;
- repay or refinance debt or other corporate obligations; or
- repurchase and redeem outstanding securities.

Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in interest-bearing short term or investment grade securities.

---

## [Table of Contents](#)

### DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes the issuance of up to 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, the rights and preferences of which may be established from time to time by our board of directors. As of March 31, 2019, there were issued and outstanding 53,741,207 shares of our common stock, of which we held 9,352,373 shares as treasury shares. There are no outstanding shares of our preferred stock.

The following is a summary description of our capital stock.

#### Common Stock

Holders of record of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters upon which stockholders have the right to vote. The rights attached to the shares of common stock do not provide for cumulative voting rights or preemptive rights. Therefore, holders of more than 50% of the shares of common stock are able to elect all our directors eligible for election each year. All issued and outstanding shares of our common stock are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable. Holders of our common stock are entitled to such dividends as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. Upon dissolution, holders of our common stock are entitled to share pro rata in the assets of our company remaining after payment in full of all of our liabilities and obligations, including payment of the liquidation preference, if any, of any preferred stock then outstanding. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock.

#### Preferred Stock

Our board of directors may, from time to time, issue up to an aggregate 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series without stockholder approval. The board of directors can fix the designation powers, rights, preferences and privileges of the shares of each series and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions, including, but not limited to:

- dividend rights and preferences over dividends on our common stock;
- conversion rights or exchange rights, if any;
- voting rights, if any (in addition to those provided by law);
- redemption rights, if any, and any sinking fund provision made for that purpose; and
- rights on liquidation, including preferences over the common stock.

Issuance of preferred stock, while providing desirable flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or of discouraging a third party from attempting to acquire, a majority of our outstanding voting stock. No shares of preferred stock are currently outstanding. We have no present plans to issue any shares of preferred stock.

The authorization of undesignated preferred stock in our charter makes it possible for our board of directors to issue preferred stock with voting or other rights or preferences that could impede the success of any attempt to change control of the Company and that may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in control or management of us. While we believe it is advisable to continue to have the ability to issue preferred stock on terms and conditions established by the board of directors, our Corporate Governance Principles, as adopted by our board, include the following provision with respect to the issuance of preferred stock:

Subject to its fiduciary duties, the Board of Directors will not, without prior stockholder approval, issue any series of preferred stock for any defense or anti-takeover purpose, for the purpose of implementing any stockholder rights plan, or with features intended to make any attempted acquisition of the Company more difficult or costly. Within the limits described above, the Board of Directors may issue preferred stock for

---

## Table of Contents

capital raising transactions, acquisitions, joint ventures or other corporate purposes that have the effect of making the acquisition of the Company more difficult or costly, as could also be the case if the Board were to issue additional common stock for such purposes.

### **Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute**

We are a Delaware corporation and consequently are also subject to certain anti-takeover provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law. Under Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, we may not engage in a business combination with any interested stockholder for three years following the time that stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

- the business combination or transaction in which the stockholder became an interested stockholder is approved by our board of directors prior to the time the interested stockholder attained that status;
- upon completion of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of our voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding those shares owned by (i) persons who are directors and also officers and (ii) employee stock plans in certain instances; or
- at or after the time the stockholder became an interested stockholder the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines an interested stockholder of a corporation to be any person (other than the corporation and any direct or indirect majority-owned subsidiary of the corporation) who:

- owns, directly or indirectly, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation; or
- is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at any time within the three-year period immediately before the date on which it is sought to be determined whether such person (and any affiliate or associate of such person) is an interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines business combinations to include certain mergers, consolidations, asset sales, transfers and other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder.

The restrictions imposed by Section 203 will not apply to a corporation if:

- the corporation's original charter contains a provision expressly electing not to be governed by Section 203; or
- the corporation, by the action of stockholders holding a majority of the outstanding voting stock, adopts an amendment to its charter or by-laws electing not to be governed by Section 203.

We have not opted out of Section 203. Under certain circumstances, Section 203 could make it more difficult for a third party to gain control of us, deny stockholders the receipt of a premium on their common stock, and may reduce the price at which the common stock may be sold.

### **Limitations on Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors**

Our certificate of incorporation limits the liability of directors to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. In addition, the certificates of incorporation and bylaws of our companies provide that we will indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. We believe that the provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws are necessary to attract and retain qualified persons as directors and officers.

---

[Table of Contents](#)

**Insurance Regulations Concerning Change of Control**

State insurance laws intended primarily for the protection of policyholders contain certain requirements that must be met prior to any change of control of an insurance company or insurance holding company that is domiciled, or in some cases, having such substantial business that it is deemed commercially domiciled, in that state. These requirements may include the advance filing of specific information with the state insurance commission, a public hearing on the matter, and review and approval of the change of control by the state agencies. We control and operate property and casualty insurance companies domiciled in Alabama, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Vermont. Under the insurance laws in these states, “control” is presumed to exist through the ownership of 10% of more of the voting securities of an insurance company or any company that controls the insurance company, except in Alabama the percentage of ownership is 5% of the voting securities. Any purchase of our shares that would result in the purchaser owning more than the threshold percentage of our voting securities will be presumed to result in the acquisition of control of our insurance subsidiaries and require prior regulatory approval.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series. This section summarizes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities that are common to all series. The specific terms relating to any series of our debt securities that we offer will be described in a prospectus supplement or in a prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment, or documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. In addition, the prospectus supplement will show a ratio of earnings to fixed charges in accordance with SEC requirements.

The debt securities will be governed by a document called an “indenture” in accordance with the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. An indenture is a contract between a financial institution, acting on your behalf as trustee of the debt securities offered, and us. The debt securities will be issued pursuant to one or more indentures. When we refer to the “applicable indenture” or “indenture” in this prospectus, we are referring to the indenture under which your debt securities are issued, as supplemented by any supplemental indenture applicable to your debt securities. The trustee has two main roles. First, subject to some limitations on the extent to which the trustee can act on your behalf, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default on our obligations under the applicable indenture. Second, the trustee performs certain administrative duties for us.

We executed an indenture on November 21, 2013, between us and Wilmington Trust Company (“Wilmington Trust”), as trustee. We issued \$250 million of unsecured 5.30% Senior Notes due 2023 pursuant to the first supplement to this indenture also dated November 21, 2013. The debt securities to be registered under the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part will be issued pursuant to one or more additional supplements to this indenture. The first supplemental indenture will not relate to the debt securities to be offered under this prospectus. References to the “indenture” or “applicable indenture” in this prospectus will not include a reference to the first supplement to the indenture.

We have summarized certain terms and provisions of the indenture herein. This summary is not complete. If we refer to particular provisions of the indenture, the provisions, including definitions of certain terms, are incorporated by reference as part of this summary. A copy of the indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and is incorporated by reference. The particular terms of the offered debt securities and the extent to which the indenture and the general provisions described below may apply to the offered debt securities will be described in a prospectus supplement.

We may issue the debt securities as original issue discount securities, which are securities that are offered and sold at a substantial discount to their stated principal amount. The prospectus supplement relating to original issue discount securities will describe federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to them. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any of the particular debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to specific debt securities will also describe any special considerations and any material additional tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

### General

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue. We may issue debt securities up to an aggregate principal amount as we may authorize from time to time. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, our debt securities will be unsecured obligations and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

We are a holding company and will primarily depend on the receipt of dividends from our insurance company subsidiaries to meet our obligations under the debt securities and our other outstanding obligations. Because the creditors of our subsidiaries, and our insurance subsidiaries’ policyholders, generally would have a right to receive payment which is superior to our right to receive payment from the assets of our subsidiaries, the

---

## Table of Contents

holders of our debt securities will effectively be subordinated to the creditors of our subsidiaries. If we were to liquidate or reorganize, your right to participate in any distribution of our subsidiaries' assets is necessarily subject to the claims of the subsidiaries' creditors, including their policyholders, and may also be subject to approval by certain insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over such subsidiaries.

You should read the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of the series of debt securities offered. The terms of the debt securities described in such prospectus supplement will be set forth in the applicable indenture and may include the following, as applicable to the series of debt securities offered thereby:

- the title of the debt securities, including the CUSIP number;
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that may be authenticated and delivered;
- the date or dates, or how the date or dates will be determined or extended, when the principal amount of the debt securities will be payable;
- the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, that the debt securities will bear, if any, or how such interest rate or rates will be determined;
- the date or dates from which any interest will accrue or how such date or dates will be determined;
- the interest payment dates and the record dates for these interest payments, or the method by which such record dates shall be determined;
- the basis upon which interest will be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;
- the place or places for payment, transfer, conversion and/or exchange of the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities are redeemable at our option and, if so, the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and other terms and conditions upon which the debt securities may be redeemed;
- whether there are any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities and, if so, the period or periods within which or the date or dates on which the price or prices at which, and other terms and conditions upon which the debt securities shall be redeemed, repaid or purchased;
- the denomination or denominations in which the debt securities will be issued if other than \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;
- the identity of each initial security registrar and/or paying agent, if other than the trustee;
- the portion of the principal amount of debt securities that will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof, or the method by which such portion will be determined, if other than the principal amount thereof;
- whether the amount of payments of principal, premium or interest, if any, on the debt securities will be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method (which could be based on one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices) and how these amounts will be determined;
- any provisions granting special rights to the holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;
- any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the events of default or covenants of the Company with respect to the debt securities, whether or not such events of default or covenants are consistent with those set forth in the indenture;
- the form in which we will issue the debt securities, if other than in registered book-entry only form represented by global securities, and whether we will have the option of issuing debt securities in "certificated" form;



---

## Table of Contents

- whether any debt securities are to be issuable initially in temporary global form and whether any debt securities are to be issuable in permanent global form and, if so, whether beneficial owners of interests in any such permanent global security may exchange such interests for debt securities in “certificated” form and of like tenor of any authorized form and denomination and the circumstances under which any such exchanges may occur, if other than in the manner provided in the indenture, and the identity of the depository for such debt securities;
- the date as of which any temporary global security representing debt securities shall be dated if other than the date of original issuance;
- the person to whom any interest on the debt securities shall be payable, if other than the person in whose name such debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for such interest, and the extent to which, or the manner in which, any interest payable on a temporary global security on an interest payment date will be paid if other than in the manner provided in the indenture;
- the applicability of the provisions of the applicable indenture described under “defeasance” and any provisions in modification of, in addition to or in lieu of any of these provisions;
- if the debt securities are to be issuable in definitive form (whether upon original issue or upon exchange of a temporary security) only upon receipt of certain certificates or other documents or satisfaction of other conditions, then the form and/or terms of such certificates, documents or conditions;
- whether, and under what circumstances the Company will pay additional amounts as contemplated by the indenture on the debt securities to any holder who is not a “United States person” (including any modification to the definition of such term) in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge and, if so, whether the Company will have the option to redeem such debt securities rather than pay such additional amounts (and the terms of any such option);
- if the debt securities may be converted into or exercised or exchanged for our common stock, preferred stock or any other of our securities or any securities of any other person, the terms on which conversion, exercise or exchange may occur, including whether conversion, exercise or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option or at the option of any other person, the date on or the period during which conversion, exercise or exchange may occur, the initial conversion, exercise or exchange price or rate and the circumstances or manner in which the amount of common stock, preferred stock or other securities issuable upon conversion, exercise or exchange may be adjusted;
- whether the debt securities are subject to mandatory or optional remarketing or other mandatory or optional resale provisions, and, if applicable, the date or period during which such resale may occur, any conditions to such resale and any right of a holder to substitute securities for the securities subject to resale; and
- any other terms specific to the series of debt securities offered (which terms shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the indenture or the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939).

Unless we indicate differently in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture pursuant to which the debt securities are issued will not contain any provisions that give you protection in the event we issue additional debt, or in the event that we are acquired by another entity.

## **Redemption**

If the debt securities are redeemable, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms and conditions for such redemption, including:

- the redemption prices (or method of calculating the same);
- the redemption period (or method of determining the same);

---

## Table of Contents

- whether such debt securities are redeemable in whole or in part at our option; and
- any other provisions affecting the redemption of such debt securities.

### **Conversion and Exchange**

If any series of the debt securities offered are convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our common stock or other securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms and conditions for such conversion or exchange, including:

- the conversion price or exchange ratio (or the method of calculating the same);
- the conversion or exchange period (or the method of determining the same);
- whether conversion or exchange will be mandatory, or at our option or at the option of the holder;
- the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price or the exchange ratio; and
- any other provisions affecting conversion or exchange of such debt securities.

### **Form and Denomination of Debt Securities**

We will issue the debt securities in registered form, either in book-entry form only or in “certificated” form, and unless indicated differently in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be denominated in U.S. dollars, in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and amounts that are of \$1,000 thereafter. We will issue registered debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities issued in book-entry form will be represented by global securities.

A global security represents one or any other number of individual debt securities. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms. Each debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all debt securities that we issue in book-entry form. The depository or its nominee will hold such global securities on behalf of financial institutions that participate in such depository’s book-entry system. These participating financial institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the global securities either on their own behalf or on behalf of their customers.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. The applicable prospectus supplement may list situations for terminating a global security that would apply to the particular series of debt securities. The depository, or its nominee, will be the sole legal holder of all debt securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account either with the depository or with another institution that has an account with the depository. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a legal holder of the debt security, but an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

In the event that we issue debt securities in certificated form, or in the event that a global security is terminated, investors may choose to hold their debt securities either in their own names or in “street name.” Debt securities held in street name are registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution chosen by the investor, and the investor would hold a beneficial interest in those debt securities through the account that he or she maintains at such bank, broker or other financial institution.

Under the indenture, only the person in whose name a debt security is registered is recognized as the holder of that debt security. Consequently, for debt securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the

---

## Table of Contents

depository or its nominee as the holder of the debt securities, and we will make all payments on the debt securities to the depository or its nominee. For debt securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities are registered as the holders of those debt securities, and we will make all payments on those debt securities to them. Investors who hold debt securities in book entry form or in street name will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the debt securities.

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by the trustee or us, run only to the legal holders of the debt securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means and who are, therefore, not the legal holders of the debt securities. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a debt security, or has no choice in the matter because we are issuing the debt securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the legal holder of the debt securities, we have no further responsibility with respect to such payment or notice even if that legal holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose (for example, to amend the indenture or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of the indenture), we would seek the approval only from the legal holders, and not the indirect holders, of the debt securities. Whether and how the legal holders contact the indirect holders is up to the legal holders.

Notwithstanding the above, when we refer to “you” or “your” in the description of debt securities that may be offered pursuant to this prospectus, we are referring to investors who invest in the debt securities offered, whether they are the legal holders or only indirect holders of the debt securities. When we refer to “your debt securities” in this prospectus, we mean the series of debt securities in which you hold a direct or indirect interest.

If you hold debt securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, we encourage you to check with that institution to find out:

- how it handles securities payments and notices;
- whether it imposes fees or charges;
- how it would handle a request for its consent, as a legal holder of the debt securities, if ever required;
- if permitted for a particular series of debt securities, whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a legal holder of such debt securities;
- how it would exercise rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and
- if the debt securities are in book-entry form, how the depository’s rules and procedures will affect these matters.

The applicable prospectus supplement for a particular series of debt securities may list situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to such series of debt securities. If a global security were terminated, only the depository, and not us or the trustee, would be responsible for deciding the names of the institutions in whose names the debt securities represented by the global security would be registered and, therefore, who would be the legal holders of those debt securities.

If we cease to issue registered debt securities in global form, we will issue them:

- only in fully registered certificated form; and
- unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and amounts that are multiples of \$1,000 thereafter.

---

## **Table of Contents**

Holders may exchange their certificated securities for debt securities of smaller denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed.

Holders may exchange or transfer their certificated securities at the trustee's office. We have appointed the trustee to act as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders transferring debt securities. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their certificated securities, but they may be required to pay any tax or other governmental charge associated with the transfer or exchange. The transfer or exchange will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holder's proof of legal ownership.

If we have designated additional transfer agents for your debt security, they will be named in your prospectus supplement. We may appoint additional transfer agents or cancel the appointment of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the location of the office through which any transfer agent acts.

If any certificated securities of a particular series are redeemable and we redeem less than all the debt securities of that series, we may block the transfer or exchange of those debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of any certificated securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security that will be partially redeemed.

If a registered debt security is issued in global form, only the depository will be entitled to transfer and exchange the debt security as described in this subsection because it will be the sole holder of the debt security.

### **Payment and Paying Agents**

On each due date for interest payments on the debt securities, we will pay interest to each person shown on the trustee's records as owner of the debt securities at the close of business on a designated day that is in advance of the due date for interest. We will pay interest to each such person even if such person no longer owns the debt security on the interest due date. The designated day on which we will determine the owner of the debt security, as shown on the trustee's records, is also known as the "record date." The record date will usually be fifteen days in advance of the interest due date.

Because we will pay interest on the debt securities to the holders of the debt securities based on ownership as of the applicable record date with respect to any given interest period, and not to the holders of the debt securities on the interest due date (that is, the day that the interest is to be paid), it is up to the holders who are buying and selling the debt securities to work out between themselves the appropriate purchase price for the debt securities. It is common for purchase prices of debt securities to be adjusted so as to prorate the interest on the debt securities fairly between the buyer and the seller based on their respective ownership periods within the applicable interest period.

We will make payments on a global security directly to the depository, or its nominee, and not to any indirect holders who own beneficial interests in the global security. An indirect holder's right to those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depository and its participants, as described under "Form and Denomination of Debt Securities" above.

We will make interest payments on debt securities held in certificated form on each due date for interest payments to the holder of the certificated securities, as shown on the trustee's records, as of the close of business on the record date, by mailing a check or transferring immediately available funds to an account maintained by the payee inside the United States. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will

---

## Table of Contents

make all payments of principal and premium, if any, on the certificated securities by payment of immediately available funds deposited at the office of the trustee specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or in a notice to holders, against surrender of the certificated security.

If payment on a debt security is due on a day that is not a business day, we will make such payment on the next succeeding business day. The indenture will provide that such payments will be treated as if they were made on the original due date for payment. A postponement of this kind will not result in a default under any debt security or indenture, and no interest will accrue on the amount of any payment that is postponed in this manner.

**Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments on their debt securities.**

### **Events of Default**

You will have special rights if an Event of Default occurs with respect to your debt securities and such Event of Default is not cured, as described later in this subsection.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the term “Event of Default” with respect to the debt securities offered means any of the following:

- We do not pay the principal of, or any premium on, the debt security on its due date.
- We do not pay interest on the debt security within 5 days of its due date.
- We do not deposit any sinking fund payment, if applicable, with respect to the debt securities on its due date.
- We remain in breach of a covenant with respect to the debt securities for 60 days after we receive a written notice of default stating that we are in breach. The notice must be sent by either the trustee or holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series.
- We file for bankruptcy or certain other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.
- Any other Event of Default that may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, and set forth in the applicable indenture, occurs.

An Event of Default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default for any other series of debt securities issued under the same or any other indenture.

If an Event of Default, other than an event of default resulting from bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, has occurred and has not been cured within the applicable time period, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may declare the entire principal amount of all the debt securities of that series to be immediately due and payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. A declaration of acceleration of maturity may be rescinded by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series if all past due amounts are paid to the trustee and all other events of default are cured or waived.

In the case of an event of default resulting from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, all unpaid principal of and accrued interest on all debt securities of such series then outstanding shall be due and payable immediately without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee for such series or the holders of any debt securities of such series.

The trustee is required to provide the holders notice of an Event of Default within 90 days after its occurrence. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default, except in the payment of principal (or premium, if any) or interest or in the payment of any sinking of purchase fund

---

## Table of Contents

installment, if it considers the withholding of notice to be in the best interests of the holders. Additionally, subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, the trustee is not required to take any action under the applicable indenture at the request of any of the holders of the debt securities unless such holders offer the trustee reasonable protection from costs, expenses and liability (called an “indemnity”). If reasonable indemnity is provided pursuant to the applicable indenture, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conduct of any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee. The trustee may refuse to follow those directions in certain circumstances. No delay or omission in exercising any right or remedy will be treated as a waiver of that right, remedy or Event of Default.

Before you are allowed to bypass your trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to your debt securities, the following must occur:

- You must give your trustee written notice that an Event of Default has occurred and remains uncured.
- The holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities of the relevant series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of the Event of Default that has occurred and must offer reasonable indemnity to the trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action.
- The trustee must not have taken any action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice, request and offer of indemnity.
- The holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the relevant series must not have given the trustee a direction inconsistent with the above notice or request.

Notwithstanding the above, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your debt securities on or after the due date for payment.

Holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may waive any past defaults other than:

- the payment of principal, or any premium or interest, on the affected series of debt securities; or
- a default in respect of a covenant that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of each holder of the affected series of debt securities.

**Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to give notice or direction to or make a request of the trustee, including any request of the trustee to take action in connection with an Event of Default with respect to their debt securities.**

With respect to each series of debt securities, we will furnish to each trustee, each year, a written statement of certain of our officers certifying that, to their knowledge, we are in compliance with the provisions of the indenture applicable to such series of debt securities, or specifying an Event of Default.

## **Merger or Consolidation**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the indenture will generally permit us to consolidate or merge with another entity. We will also be permitted to sell, assign, transfer, convey, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets to another entity. However, we may not take any of these actions unless, among other things, the following conditions are met:

- in the event that we consolidate or merge out of existence or sell, assign, transfer, convey, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets, the resulting entity or the entity to whom such assets are sold, assigned, transferred, conveyed or leased must agree to be legally responsible for the debt securities;

---

## Table of Contents

- the merger or consolidation or the sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance, lease or other disposal of all or substantially all of our assets must not cause a default on the debt securities, and we must not already be in default with respect to the debt securities; and
- we must satisfy any other requirements specified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities.

### **Limitation on Liens on Stock of Significant Subsidiaries**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may not, nor may we permit any subsidiary to, create, incur, assume or guarantee or otherwise permit to exist any indebtedness secured by any lien on any shares of capital stock of any significant subsidiary, unless we provide, concurrently with or prior to the creation, incurrence, assumption or guarantee of such indebtedness, that the debt securities are secured equally and ratably with such indebtedness for at least the time period such other indebtedness is so secured.

The term “significant subsidiary” means any present or future consolidated subsidiary that meets any of the conditions set forth under Rule 405 under the Securities Act (substituting 5 percent for 10 percent in the tests used therein).

The term “lien” means any mortgage, pledge, lien, charge, security interest, conditional sale or other title retention agreement or other encumbrance of any nature whatsoever.

The term “indebtedness” means, with respect to any person:

- the principal of and any premium and interest on (a) indebtedness of such person for money borrowed and (b) indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments for the payment of which such person is responsible or liable;
- all capital lease obligations of such person;
- all obligations of such person issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, all conditional sale obligations and all obligations under any title retention agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business);
- all obligations of such person for the reimbursement of any obligor on any letter of credit, banker’s acceptance or similar credit transaction (other than obligations with respect to letters of credit securing obligations (other than obligations described above) entered into in the ordinary course of business to the extent such letters of credit are not drawn upon or, if and to the extent drawn upon, such drawing is reimbursed no later than the third business day following receipt by such person of a demand for reimbursement following payment on the letter of credit);
- all obligations of the type referred to above of other persons and all dividends of other persons for the payment of which, in either case, such person is responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise;
- all obligations of the type referred to above of other persons secured by any lien on any property or asset of such person (whether or not such obligation is assumed by such person); and
- any amendments, modifications, refundings, renewals or extensions of any indebtedness or obligation described as indebtedness above.

### **Modification or Waiver**

There are three types of changes we can make to any indenture and the debt securities issued thereunder.

---

## Table of Contents

**Changes Requiring Your Approval.** There are changes that we cannot make to the terms or provisions of your debt securities without your specific approval. Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture, without your specific approval, we may not:

- change the stated maturity of the principal of (or premium, if any, on), or interest on, your debt securities;
- change any obligation to pay any additional amounts on your debt securities;
- reduce the principal amount of, or premium, if any, or interest on, or any other amounts due on your debt securities;
- reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of maturity of your debt securities;
- make any change that adversely affects your right to receive payment on, to convert, to exchange or to require us to purchase, as applicable, your debt security in accordance with the terms of the applicable indenture;
- change the place of payment on your debt securities;
- impair your right to sue for payment on your debt securities;
- reduce the percentage of holders of outstanding debt securities of your series whose consent is needed to modify or amend the applicable indenture;
- reduce the percentage of holders of outstanding debt securities of your series whose consent is needed to waive compliance with certain provisions of the applicable indenture or to waive certain defaults of the applicable indenture; or
- modify any other aspect of the provisions of the applicable indenture dealing with modification and waiver of past defaults, changes to the quorum or voting requirements or the waiver of certain covenants relating to your debt securities.

**Changes Not Requiring Your Approval.** There are certain changes that we may make to your debt securities without your specific approval and without any vote of the holders of the debt securities of the same series. Such changes are limited to clarifications and certain other changes that would not adversely affect the holders of the outstanding debt securities of such series in any material respect.

**Changes Requiring Majority Approval.** Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture, any other change to, or waiver of, any provision of an indenture and the debt securities issued pursuant thereto would require the following approval:

- If the change affects only one series of debt securities, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series.
- If the change affects more than one series of debt securities issued under the same indenture, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by the change, with all affected series voting together as one class for this purpose.
- Waiver of our compliance with certain provisions of an indenture for any series of debt securities must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series, in accordance with the terms of such indenture.

In each case, the required approval must be given in writing.

## **Acts by Holders**

Debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore the Holders of such debt securities will not be eligible to take action under the indenture, if we have deposited or set aside in trust money for their payment



---

## Table of Contents

in full or their redemption. Holders of debt securities will also not be eligible to take action under the indenture if we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations with respect to such debt securities, as described below under “Defeasance.”

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding debt securities that are entitled take action under the indenture. If we set a record date for action to be taken by holders of one or more series of debt securities, such action may be taken only by persons shown on the trustee’s records as holders of the debt securities of the relevant series on such record date.

**Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how their approval or waiver may be granted or denied if we seek their approval to change or waive the provisions of an applicable indenture or of their debt securities.**

### **Defeasance**

If specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture, we may elect either:

- to be released from some of the covenants in the indenture under which your debt securities were issued (referred to as “covenant defeasance”); or
- to be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to your debt securities, except for obligations to register the transfer or exchange of your debt securities, to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain paying offices or agencies and to hold moneys for payment in trust (referred to as “full defeasance”).

In the event of covenant defeasance, you would lose the protection of some of our covenants in the indenture, but would gain the protection of having money and government securities set aside in trust to repay your debt securities. If we were to accomplish covenant defeasance, you could still look to us for repayment of the debt securities if there were a shortfall in the trust deposit or the trustee were prevented from making payment. In fact, if an Event of Default that remained after we accomplish covenant defeasance occurred (such as our bankruptcy) and your debt securities became immediately due and payable, there might be a shortfall in our trust deposit. Depending on the event causing the default, you might not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall.

If we were to accomplish full defeasance, you would have to rely solely on the funds or notes or bonds that we deposit in trust for repayment of your debt securities. You could not look to us for repayment in the unlikely event of any shortfall in our trust deposit. Conversely, the trust deposit would most likely be protected from claims of our lenders and other creditors if we were to become bankrupt or insolvent.

Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture, in order to accomplish covenant or full defeasance with respect to the debt securities offered:

- We must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the debt securities of the same series as your debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that would generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on such series of debt securities on the various dates when such payments would be due.
- No Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time would become an Event of Default, including by reason of the above deposit of money, notes or bonds, with respect to your debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit.
- We must deliver to the trustee of such debt securities a legal opinion of our counsel to the effect that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you will not recognize income, gain or loss as a result of such

---

## Table of Contents

defeasance and that such defeasance will not cause you to be taxed on your debt securities any differently than if such defeasance had not occurred and we had just repaid your debt securities ourselves at maturity and, in the case of full defeasance, stating either that we have received, or there has been published, a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service or that there had been a change in the applicable U.S. federal income tax law to such effect.

- We must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel to the effect that the deposit of funds or bonds would not require registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or that all necessary registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, had been effected.
- We must comply with any additional terms of, conditions to or limitations to covenant or full defeasance, as set forth in the applicable indenture.
- We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities an officer's certificate and a legal opinion of our counsel stating that all conditions precedent to covenant or full defeasance, as set forth in the applicable indenture, had been complied with.

### **Information Concerning the Trustee**

The Trust Indenture Act of 1939 contains limitations on the rights of the trustee, should it become a creditor of ours, to obtain payment of claims in some cases or to realize on some property received by it in respect of those claims, as security or otherwise. Each trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us and our subsidiaries from time to time, provided that if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest the trustee must either resign or eliminate that conflict upon the occurrence of an event of default under the indenture.

Wilmington Trust Company will be the trustee under the indenture. In the ordinary course of business we may borrow from and maintain banking relationships with Wilmington Trust Company and its affiliates. The trust offices of Wilmington Trust Company are located at 1100 North Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19890.

### **Governing Law**

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the law of the State of New York.

---

## Table of Contents

### INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference,” into this prospectus, certain information that we file with the SEC, which means that we can and we are disclosing to you important information by referring you to various documents that we have filed separately with the SEC. Information that we incorporate by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information contained directly in this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement or prospectus contained in a post-effective amendment or superseded by information in subsequent reports filed with the SEC. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below:

- Our Annual Report on [Form 10-K](#) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, filed on February 21, 2019.
- Our Quarterly Report on [Form 10-Q](#) for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2019, filed on May 1, 2019.
- Our Definitive Proxy Statement on [Schedule 14A](#), filed on April 12, 2019.
- Our Current Report on [Form 8-K](#), filed on May 22, 2019.
- Our Current Report on [Form 8-K/A](#), filed on April 26, 2019.
- Our Current Report on [Form 8-K](#), filed on April 26, 2019.
- Our Current Report on [Form 8-K](#), filed on April 25, 2019.
- Our Current Report on [Form 8-K](#), filed on April 25, 2019.
- Our Current Report on [Form 8-K](#), filed on April 12, 2019.
- Our Current Report on [Form 8-K](#) filed on March 6, 2019.
- Our Current Report on [Form 8-K](#) filed on March 4, 2019.
- All documents filed by us under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act on or after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of this offering (to the extent such items are “filed” with the SEC and not “furnished”).

Upon request, we will provide to each person, including a beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, a copy of any or all of the information that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus but have not delivered to investors. To receive a free copy of those documents, other than exhibits (unless they are specifically incorporated by reference in those documents), call or write to:

J. Ken McEwen  
Investor Relations Manager  
ProAssurance Corporation  
100 Brookwood Place  
Birmingham, Alabama 35209  
Tel: (205) 877-4400  
E-mail: [kenmcewen@proassurance.com](mailto:kenmcewen@proassurance.com)

For information on how to access this information incorporated by reference, see the following section of this prospectus entitled, “Where You Can Find More Information.”

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC under the Securities Act. As permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC, this prospectus does not include all of the information contained in the registration statement that we filed. Statements contained in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement about the contents of any contract or other document are necessarily summaries of such documents and incomplete. In each instance, reference is made to the registration statement and to each of the agreements and other documents filed as an exhibit or schedule thereto, and to the documents and schedules filed therein or incorporated by reference as a part thereof. Each statement in this prospectus regarding a contract or other document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual document. In addition, we are subject to the information and reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, pursuant to which we file annual, quarterly, current and other reports, proxy statements, and other information with the SEC. For additional information and a better understanding of ProAssurance, our business, our securities, and the offering to which this prospectus relates, we refer you to our registration statement on Form S-3, and to each of the exhibits and schedules filed with the registration statement, and to the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Our registration statement and these other documents may be obtained from a couple of sources, described below.

You may read and copy our registration statement, and other information about us, at the SEC's Public Reference Room, which is located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at (800) SEC-0330 for further information about the Public Reference Room. Additionally, the SEC maintains an Internet website that contains our registration statement, our financial and other reports that we file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC's website is [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "PRA." You can read our registration statements, reports, proxy statements and other information about us and this offering at The New York Stock Exchange, located at 20 Broad Street, New York, NY 10005. In addition, current information regarding ProAssurance, including copies of our recent SEC reports, is also available on the Company's website at [ProAssurance.com](http://ProAssurance.com).

Information on our website is not incorporated by reference in, or otherwise made a part of, this prospectus.

---

[Table of Contents](#)

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement or in a Current Report on Form 8-K of the registrant and incorporated herein by reference, certain legal matters regarding the common stock, preferred stock and debt securities of ProAssurance Corporation will be passed upon for us by Burr & Forman LLP. As of May 24, 2019, partners of Burr & Forman LLP owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company on that date. Underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, who we will identify in a prospectus supplement, or in a Current Report on Form 8-K of the registrant and incorporated herein by reference, may have their counsel pass upon certain legal matters in connection with the securities offered by this prospectus.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of ProAssurance Corporation appearing in ProAssurance Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 (including the schedules appearing therein), and the effectiveness of ProAssurance Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, have been audited by Ernst & Young, LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

**Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, are set forth in the following table. All amounts shown are estimates except the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") registration fee.

SEC registration fee	*
Listing fees	**
Blue sky fees and expenses	**
Printing fees and expenses	**
Legal fees and expenses	**
Accounting fees and expenses	**
Trustee's fees and expenses	**
Rating agency fees	**
Transfer agent and registrar fees	**
Miscellaneous	**
Total	**

\* To be deferred under Rule 456(b) and calculated in connection with the offering of securities under this registration statement under Rule 457(r).

\*\* Because an indeterminate aggregate initial offering price and amount of securities is covered by this registration statement, the expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities are not currently determinable.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

As permitted by Delaware law, the Registrant's certificate of incorporation provides that the directors of the Registrant will not be held personally liable for a breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except that a director may be liable for (i) a breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) acts made in bad faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, (iii) illegal payment of dividends under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law; or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit. The Registrant's certificate of incorporation further provides that if Delaware law is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of a director of the Registrant shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, as so amended.

The by-laws of the Registrant provide that the Registrant will indemnify any person involved in litigation brought by a third party or by or in the right of the Registrant by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Registrant or is or was serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another entity. The Registrant will only indemnify such a person if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be lawful and in the best interests of the Registrant, except that the person will not be entitled to indemnification in an action in which he or she is found to be liable to the corporation unless the Delaware Court of Chancery deems indemnification under these circumstances proper.

The Registrant maintains in effect directors' and officers' liability insurance which provides coverage against certain liabilities. The Registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with each of its directors and executive officers which requires the Registrant to use reasonable efforts to maintain such insurance during

---

## Table of Contents

the term of the agreement so long as the Board of Directors in the exercise of its business judgment determines that the cost is not excessive and is reasonably related to the amount of coverage and that the coverage provides a reasonable benefit for such cost. The indemnification agreements require the Registrant to indemnify the executive officers and directors to the fullest extent permitted under Delaware law to the extent not covered by liability insurance, including advances of expenses in the defense of claims against the executive officer or director while acting in such capacity. It is a condition to such indemnification that the indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner that he or she believed to be in or not opposed to the interest of the Registrant or its stockholders, and with respect to a criminal action had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

Indemnification is not available from the Registrant:

- in respect to remuneration that is determined to be in violation of law;
- on account of any liability arising from a suit for an accounting of profits for the purchase and sale of Registrant's common stock pursuant to Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended;
- on account of conduct that is determined to have been knowingly fraudulent, deliberately dishonest or willful misconduct;
- if indemnification is prohibited by the applicable laws of the State of Delaware;
- if the indemnitee is found to be liable to the Registrant or its subsidiaries unless the Delaware Court of Chancery determines that the indemnitee is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification for expenses that the court deems proper; or
- if a court should determine that such indemnification is not lawful.

The indemnification agreement requires the indemnitee to reimburse the Registrant for all reasonable expenses incurred or advanced in defending any criminal or civil suit or proceedings against the indemnitee if the Registrant determines that indemnity is not available.

### **Item 16. Exhibits**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Documents</b>
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Common Stock and/or Preferred Stock
1.2*	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Debt Securities
4.1	Indenture between ProAssurance Corporation and Wilmington Trust Company, as Trustee, dated November 21, 2013, which was filed as an exhibit to registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 21, 2013 and incorporated herein by this reference.
5.1	Opinion of Burr & Forman LLP
12.1*	Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges
23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
23.2	Consent of Burr & Forman LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Powers of Attorney (included on signature page of this registration statement)
25.1	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1

\* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K of the registrant and incorporated herein by reference.

---

## Table of Contents

### **Item 17. Undertakings**

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
  - (a) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended;
  - (b) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and
  - (c) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(a), (1)(b) and 1(c) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of this registration statement.
- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
  - (a) each prospectus filed by a Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
  - (b) each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.



---

## Table of Contents

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of a registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of an undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (a) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (b) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
- (c) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
- (d) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(6) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefits plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(7) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions described under Item 15 above, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(8) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

---

[Table of Contents](#)

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

<b><u>Exhibit Number</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Common Stock and/or Preferred Stock
1.2*	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Debt Securities
4.1	<a href="#"><u>Indenture between ProAssurance Corporation and Wilmington Trust Company, as Trustee, dated November 21, 2013, which was filed as an exhibit to registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 21, 2013 and incorporated herein by this reference.</u></a>
5.1	<a href="#"><u>Opinion of Burr &amp; Forman LLP</u></a>
12.1*	Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges
23.1	<a href="#"><u>Consent of Ernst &amp; Young LLP</u></a>
23.2	<a href="#"><u>Consent of Burr &amp; Forman LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)</u></a>
24.1	<a href="#"><u>Powers of Attorney (included on signature page of this registration statement)</u></a>
25.1	<a href="#"><u>Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1</u></a>

---

\* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K of the registrant and incorporated herein by reference.

---

[Table of Contents](#)

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Birmingham, State of Alabama, on the 24th day of May, 2019.

PROASSURANCE CORPORATION

By: /s/ W. Stancil Starnes  
W. Stancil Starnes  
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Jeffrey P. Lisenby and Dana S. Hendricks, jointly and severally, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, each with full power of substitution, for him or her in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done and hereby ratifying and confirming all that each of said attorneys-in-fact or any of them, or his or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ W. Stancil Starnes</u> W. Stancil Starnes	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Dana S. Hendricks</u> Dana S. Hendricks	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Edward L. Rand, Jr.</u> Edward L. Rand, Jr.	Director, Chief Operating Officer and President	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Samuel A. DiPiazza, Jr.</u> Samuel A. DiPiazza, Jr.	Director	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Ziad R. Haydar</u> Ziad R. Haydar	Director	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Robert E. Flowers</u> Robert E. Flowers	Director	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ M. James Gorrie</u> M. James Gorrie	Director	May 24, 2019

---

## Table of Contents

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Bruce D. Angiolillo</u> Bruce D. Angiolillo	Director	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Maye Head Frei</u> Maye Head Frei	Director	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Frank A. Spinosa</u> Frank A. Spinosa	Director	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Thomas A. S. Wilson, Jr.</u> Thomas A. S. Wilson, Jr.	Director	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Kedrick D. Adkins, Jr.</u> Kedrick D. Adkins, Jr.	Director	May 24, 2019
<u>/s/ Katisha T. Vance</u> Katisha T. Vance ( <a href="#">Back To Top</a> )	Director	May 24, 2019

## Section 2: EX-5.1 (EX-5.1)

Exhibit 5.1

Burr & Forman LLP  
Birmingham, Alabama

May 24, 2019

To The Board of Directors  
ProAssurance Corporation  
100 Brookwood Place  
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

Re: ProAssurance Corporation—Registration Statement on Form S-3

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to ProAssurance Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the “*Company*”), in connection with the preparation and filing by the Company of the registration statement on Form S-3 to which this letter is an exhibit (the “*Registration Statement*”) being filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “*Commission*”) relating to the offering from time to time, pursuant to Rule 415 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “*Securities Act*”), of an undesignated amount of (i) shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “*Common Stock*”), (ii) shares of the Company’s preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “*Preferred Stock*”), and (iii) debt securities of the Company (the “*Debt Securities*,” and together with the Common Stock and the Preferred Stock, the “*Securities*”). The terms of the offering of the Securities will be set forth in the prospectus contained in the Registration Statement (the “*Prospectus*”), as supplemented by one or more supplements thereto (each, a “*Prospectus Supplement*”).

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, the Preferred Stock will be issued in one or more series having the relative powers, designations, preferences, rights and qualifications, limitations and restrictions as shall be set forth in one or more certificates of designation related to the series of Preferred Stock (each, a “*Certificate of Designation*”). The Debt Securities will be issued pursuant to a future supplement to the indenture dated November 21, 2013 by and between the Company and Wilmington Trust Company, as trustee (the “*Trustee*”), as supplemented by the first supplemental indenture dated November 21, 2013, between the Company and the Trustee (collectively, the “*Indenture*”). Each Certificate of Designation and future supplement to the Indenture, as applicable, will be filed either as an exhibit to a post-effective amendment to the Registration Statement, or as an exhibit to a Company report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

We have examined the Registration Statement and the exhibits thereto, including the Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as amended pursuant to that Certificate of Amendment dated June 25, 2001 (the “*Charter*”) and the Fourth Restatement of the By-Laws of the Company (the “*By-Laws*”), and the relevant proceedings of the Board of Directors of the Company (the “*Board*”), including the resolutions adopted by the Board with respect to the Registration Statement (the “*Resolutions*”). We have also examined originals, or copies of originals certified to our satisfaction, of such agreements, documents, certificates and statements of the Company and others; and we have examined such questions of law as we have considered relevant and necessary as a basis for this opinion letter. We have assumed the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the

genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity of all persons and the conformity with the original documents of any copies thereof submitted to us for examination. As to facts relevant to the opinions expressed herein, we have relied without independent investigation or verification upon, and assumed the accuracy and completeness of, certificates, letters and oral and written statements and representations of public officials, and officers and other representatives of the Company.

Based on and subject to the foregoing and the other limitations, qualifications and assumptions set forth herein, we are of the opinion that:

1. With respect to an offering of shares of Common Stock covered by the Registration Statement, such shares of Common Stock will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable when: (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including any necessary post-effective amendments), shall have become effective under the Securities

Act, (ii) a Prospectus Supplement with respect to the sale of shares of Common Stock shall have been filed with the Commission in compliance with the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, (iii) the Board shall have duly adopted final resolutions in conformity with the Charter, the By-Laws and the Resolutions authorizing the issuance and sale of such shares of Common Stock, as contemplated by the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Prospectus Supplement relating to such Common Stock, and (iv) certificates representing such shares of Common Stock shall have been duly executed, countersigned and registered, and duly delivered in accordance with the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement to the purchasers thereof, against payment of the agreed consideration therefor, in an amount not less than the par value thereof; or if any such shares of Common Stock are to be issued in uncertificated form, the Company's books shall reflect the issuance of such shares of Common Stock in accordance with the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement, upon payment of the agreed consideration therefor, in an amount not less than the par value thereof.

2. With respect to an offering of shares of each series of Preferred Stock covered by the Registration Statement, such shares of each such series of Preferred Stock will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable when (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including any necessary post-effective amendments), shall have become effective under the Securities Act, (ii) a Prospectus Supplement with respect to the sale of such series of Preferred Stock shall have been filed with the Commission in compliance with the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, (iii) all necessary corporate action shall have been taken by the Company, and the Board shall have duly adopted final resolutions, in conformity with the Charter, the By-Laws and the Resolutions, establishing the designations, preferences, rights, qualifications, limitations or restrictions of such series of Preferred Stock and authorizing the issuance and sale of such series of Preferred Stock, as contemplated by the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Prospectus Supplement relating to such Preferred Stock, (iv) the Company shall have filed, with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, Certificate of Designations with respect to such series of Preferred Stock in accordance with the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware and in conformity with the Charter and such final resolutions, and (v) certificates representing such series of Preferred Stock shall have been duly executed, countersigned and registered and duly delivered in accordance with the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement to the purchasers thereof, upon payment of the agreed consideration therefor, in an amount not less than the par value thereof; or if any shares of such series of Preferred Stock are to be issued in uncertificated form, the Company's books shall reflect the issuance of such shares in accordance with the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement, upon payment of the agreed consideration therefor, in an amount not less than the par value thereof.

3. The Indenture constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms; and the Debt Securities of each series covered by the Registration Statement will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with the terms thereof and will be entitled to the benefits of the Indenture, as supplemented, when: (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended (including any necessary post-effective amendments), shall have become effective under the Securities Act, (ii) a Prospectus Supplement with respect to such series of Debt Securities shall have been filed with the Commission in compliance with the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, (iii) all necessary corporate action shall have been taken by the Company, and the Board shall have duly adopted final resolutions, in conformity with the Charter, the By-Laws and the Resolutions, (A) establishing the form, terms of such series of Debt Securities and (B) authorizing: (1) the issuance and sale, execution, deliver and performance of the Debt Securities, as contemplated by the Registration Statement, the Prospectus, the Prospectus Supplement relating to such Debt Securities and the Indenture, and (2) the execution, delivery and performance of a supplemental indenture establishing the form and terms of such series of Debt Securities as contemplated by the Indenture (a "**Supplemental Indenture**"), (iv) a Supplemental Indenture establishing the form and terms of such series of Debt Securities shall have been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the Trustee in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, the By-Laws, final resolutions of the Board and the Indenture, and (v) the instruments evidencing the Debt Securities of such series shall have been duly executed and delivered by the Company, authenticated by the Trustee and issued, all in accordance with the Charter, the By-Laws, final resolutions of the Board, the Indenture and any Supplemental Indenture, and shall have been duly delivered in accordance with the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement to the purchasers thereof, upon payment of the agreed consideration therefor.

Our opinion is subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium, fraudulent conveyance, fraudulent transfer and other similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally and to general equitable principles (regardless of whether considered in a proceeding in equity or at law), including concepts of commercial reasonableness, good faith and fair dealing and the possible unavailability of specific performance or injunctive relief. Our opinion is also subject to (i) provisions of law which may require that a judgment for money damages rendered by a court in the United States of America be expressed only in United States dollars, (ii) requirements that a claim with respect to any Debt Securities or other obligations that are denominated or payable other than in United States dollars (or a judgment denominated or payable other than in United States dollars in respect of such claim) be converted into United States dollars at a rate of exchange prevailing on a date determined pursuant to applicable law, and (iii) governmental authority to limit, delay or prohibit the making of payments outside of the United States of America or in a foreign currency.

For the purposes of this letter, we have assumed that, at the time of the issuance, sale and delivery of any of the Securities: (i) the Securities being offered will be issued and sold as contemplated in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus Supplement relating thereto; (ii) the execution, delivery and performance by the Company of the Indenture, as applicable, and the issuance, sale and delivery of the Securities will not (A) contravene or violate the Charter or By-Laws, (B) violate any law, rule or regulation applicable to the Company, (C) result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company or any order, judgment or decree of any court or governmental authority applicable to the Company, or (D) require any authorization, approval or other action by, or notice to or filing with, any court or governmental authority (other than such authorizations, approvals, actions, notices or filings which shall have been obtained or made, as the case may be, and which shall be in full force and effect); (iii) the authorization thereof by the Company will not have been modified or rescinded, and there will not have occurred any change in law affecting the validity, legally binding character or enforceability thereof; and (iv) the Charter and the By-laws, each as currently in effect, will not have been modified or amended and will be in full force and effect.

We have further assumed that the Indenture and each supplemental indenture relating thereto will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

With respect to each instrument or agreement referred to in or otherwise relevant to the opinions set forth herein (each, an "*Instrument*"), we have assumed, to the extent relevant to the opinions set forth herein, that (i) each party to such Instrument (if not a natural person) was duly organized or formed, as the case may be, and was at all relevant times and is validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization or formation, as the case may be, and had at all relevant times and has full right, power and authority to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under such Instrument; (ii) such Instrument has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by each party thereto; and (iii) such Instrument was at all relevant times and is a valid, binding and enforceable agreement or obligation, as the case may be, of, each party thereto.

This opinion letter is limited to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware and the laws of the State of New York (excluding the securities laws of the State of New York). We express no opinion as to the laws, rules or regulations of any other jurisdiction, including, without limitation, the federal laws of the United States of America or any state securities or blue sky laws.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the use of our name under the heading "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus. In giving such consent, we do not hereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder.

Very truly yours,  
/s/ Burr & Forman LLP  
([Back To Top](#))

## Section 3: EX-23.1 (EX-23.1)

**Exhibit 23.1**

### Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Experts" in this Registration Statement (Form S-3) and related Prospectus of ProAssurance Corporation for the registration of common stock, preferred stock and debt securities and to the incorporation by reference therein of our reports dated February 21, 2019, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedules of ProAssurance Corporation, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of ProAssurance Corporation, included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2018, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Birmingham, AL  
May 24, 2019  
([Back To Top](#))

## Section 4: EX-25.1 (EX-25.1)

---

---

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

---

**FORM T-1**

---

**STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY  
UNDER THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939  
OF A CORPORATION DESIGNATED TO ACT AS TRUSTEE**

**Check if an Application to Determine Eligibility of a Trustee Pursuant to Section 305(b)(2)**

---

**WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY**

(Exact name of Trustee as specified in its charter)

---

**Delaware**  
(Jurisdiction of incorporation of  
organization if not a U.S. national bank)

**51-0055023**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**1100 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19890-0001  
(302) 651-1000**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**Karin Meis  
Vice President  
Wilmington Trust Company  
1100 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19890-0001  
(302) 651-8311**  
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent of service)

---

**ProAssurance Corporation**  
(Exact name of obligor as specified in its charter)

---

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**63-1261433**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**100 Brookwood Place  
Birmingham, Alabama 35209**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

---

**Debt Securities**  
(Title of the indenture securities)

---

---



---

**ITEM 1. GENERAL INFORMATION.**

Furnish the following information as to the trustee:

(a) Name and address of each examining or supervising authority to which it is subject.

State Bank Commissioner  
555 East Loockerman Street, Suite 210  
Dover, Delaware 19901

(b) Whether it is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.

The trustee is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.

**ITEM 2. AFFILIATIONS WITH THE OBLIGOR.**

If the obligor is an affiliate of the trustee, describe each affiliation:

Based upon an examination of the books and records of the trustee and information available to the trustee, the obligor is not an affiliate of the trustee.

**ITEM 3.—15.** Not applicable.

**ITEM 16. LIST OF EXHIBITS.**

Listed below are all exhibits filed as part of this Statement of Eligibility and Qualification.

Exhibit 1. Copy of the Charter of Wilmington Trust Company

Exhibit 2. Certificate of Authority of Wilmington Trust Company to commence business—included in Exhibit 1 above.

Exhibit 3. Authorization of Wilmington Trust Company to exercise corporate trust powers—included in Exhibit 1 above.

Exhibit 4. Copy of By-Laws of Wilmington Trust Company, as now in effect, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4 of this Form T-1.

Exhibit 5. Not applicable

Exhibit 6. Consent of Wilmington Trust Company required by Section 321(b) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, attached hereto as Exhibit 6 of this Form T-1.

Exhibit 7. Copy of most recent Report of Condition of Wilmington Trust Company, published pursuant to law or the requirements of its supervising or examining authority, attached hereto as Exhibit 7 of this Form T-1.

Exhibit 8. Not applicable.

Exhibit 9. Not applicable.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, the trustee, Wilmington Trust Company, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, has duly caused this Statement of Eligibility to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, all in the City of Wilmington and State of Delaware on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

---

[SEAL]

**WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY**

Attest: /s/ J. Powers  
Assistant Secretary

By: /s/ John T. Needham, Jr.  
Name: John T. Needham, Jr.  
Title: Vice President

---

**EXHIBIT 1\***

**RESTATED CHARTER**

**WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY**

**WILMINGTON, DELAWARE**

\* Exhibit 1 also constitutes Exhibits 2 and 3.

---

**RESTATED  
CHARTER OR ACT OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY**

(Originally incorporated on March 2, 1901  
under the name "Delaware Guarantee and Trust Company")

**FIRST:** The name of the corporation is Wilmington Trust Company (hereinafter referred to as the "Company").

**SECOND:** The principal place of business of the Company in the State of Delaware shall be located in the City of Wilmington, County of New Castle. The Company may have one or more branch offices or places of business.

**THIRD:** The purpose for which the Company is formed is to carry on a non-depository trust company business and, in connection therewith, the Company shall have and possess all powers, rights, privileges and franchises incident to a non-depository trust company, and in general shall have the right, privilege and power to engage in any lawful act or activity, within or without the State of Delaware, for which non-depository trust companies may be organized under the provisions of Chapter 7 of Title 5 of the Delaware Code, as the same may be amended from time to time, and, in addition, may avail itself of any additional privileges or powers permitted to it by law.

**FOURTH:** The amount of the total authorized capital stock of the Company shall be Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000), divided into Five Thousand (5,000) shares of common stock, having a par value of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per share. Upon the effective time of the filing of this Restated Charter or Act of Incorporation, each share of common stock of the Company, par value One Dollar (\$1.00) per share, outstanding immediately prior to such effective time shall be reclassified and changed into one share of common stock of the Company, par value One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per share.

---

FIFTH: The number of directors who shall constitute the whole board of directors of the Company shall be such number as shall be fixed by, or in the manner provided in, the bylaws of the Company, provided that the number of directors shall not be less than five.

SIXTH: The duration of the Company's existence shall be perpetual.

SEVENTH: The private property of the stockholders of the Company shall not be subject to the payment of the debts of the Company.

EIGHTH: The business and affairs of the Company shall be managed by or under the direction of the board of directors, and the directors need not be elected by ballot unless required by the bylaws of the Company.

NINTH: In furtherance and not in limitation of the powers conferred by the laws of the State of Delaware, the board of directors of the Company is expressly authorized to make, amend, and repeal the bylaws of the Company. The bylaws of the Company may confer upon the directors specific powers, not inconsistent with law, which are in addition to the powers and authority expressly conferred by the laws of the State of Delaware.

TENTH: The Company shall have the right to amend, alter, change or repeal any provisions contained in this Restated Charter or Act of Incorporation to the extent or in the manner now or hereafter permitted or prescribed by law.

ELEVENTH: To the fullest extent permissible under Title 5, Section 723(b) of the Delaware Code, a director of the Company shall have no personal liability to the Company or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, provided that this provision shall not eliminate the liability of a director (i) for any breach of the director's duty

---

of loyalty to the Company or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve international misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. If the Delaware General Corporation Law is hereafter amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of a director of the Company shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, as so amended.

Any repeal or modification of the foregoing paragraph by the stockholders of the Company shall not adversely effect any right or protection of a director of the Company existing at the time of such repeal of modification.

TWELFTH: The Company shall have the power to merge or sell its assets and take other corporate action to the extent and in the manner now or hereafter permitted or prescribed by law, and all rights conferred upon stockholders herein are granted subject to such rights.

THIRTEENTH: This Restated Charter or Act of Incorporation shall become effective at 12:05 a.m. on July 1, 2011.

---

**EXHIBIT 4**

**BY-LAWS**

**WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY**

**WILMINGTON, DELAWARE**

---

**AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS  
OF  
WILMINGTON TRUST  
COMPANY EFFECTIVE AS OF  
APRIL 18, 2018**

**ARTICLE 1  
Stockholders' Meetings**

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of stockholders of Wilmington Trust Company (the "Company") shall be held on the third Tuesday in April each year at the principal office at the Company or at such other date, time or place as may be designated by resolution by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of stockholders may be called at any time by the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the President.

Section 3. Notice. Notice of all meetings of the stockholders shall be given by mailing to each stockholder at least ten (10) days before said meeting, at his or her last known address, a written or printed notice fixing the time and place of such meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority in the amount of the capital stock of the Company issued and outstanding on the record date, as herein determined, shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of stockholders for the transaction of any business, but the holders of a smaller number of shares may adjourn from time to time, without further notice, until a quorum is secured. At each annual or special meeting of stockholders, each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote, either in person or by proxy, for each share of stock registered in the stockholder's name on the books of the Company on the record date for any such meeting as determined herein.

Section 5. Action by Consent in Writing. Unless otherwise provided in the Restated Charter or Act of Incorporation, any action required to be taken at any annual or special meeting of stockholders of the Company, or any action that may be taken at any annual or special meeting of those stockholders, may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice, and without a vote, if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by the holders of outstanding stock having not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize or take that action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and voted. Prompt notice of the taking of the corporate action without a meeting by less than unanimous written consent shall be given to those stockholders who have not consented in writing.



---

**ARTICLE 2**  
**Directors**

Section 1. Management. The affairs and business of the Company shall be managed by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Number. The authorized number of directors that shall constitute the Board of Directors shall be fixed from time to time by or pursuant to a resolution passed by a majority of the Board of Directors within the parameters set by the Restated Charter or Act of Incorporation of the Company.

Section 3. Reserved.

Section 4. Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet at the principal office of the Company or elsewhere in its discretion at such times to be determined by a majority of its members, or at the call of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer or the President.

Section 5. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the President, and shall be called upon the written request of a majority of the directors.

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the directors elected and qualified shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Notice. Written notice shall be sent by U.S. mail, electronic mail or facsimile to each director of any special meeting of the Board of Directors, and of any change in the time or place of any regular meeting, stating the time and place of such meeting, which shall be sent not less than two days before the time of holding such meeting.

Section 8. Vacancies. In the event of the death, resignation, removal, inability to act or disqualification of any director, the Board of Directors, although less than a quorum, shall have the right to elect the successor who shall hold office for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred, and until such director's successor shall have been duly elected and qualified.

---

Section 9. Organization Meeting. The Board of Directors at its first meeting after its election by the stockholders shall appoint an Audit Committee and shall elect from its own members a Chairman of the Board, a Chief Executive Officer and a President, who may be the same person. The Board of Directors shall also elect at such meeting a Secretary and a Chief Financial Officer, who may be the same person, and may appoint at any time such additional committees as it may deem advisable.

Section 10. Removal. The Board of Directors may at any time remove, with or without cause, any member of any committee appointed by it or any officer elected by it and may appoint or elect his or her successor.

Section 11. Responsibility of Officers. The Board of Directors may designate an officer to be in charge of such departments or divisions of the Company as it may deem advisable.

Section 12. Participation in Meetings; Action without a Meeting. The Board of Directors or any committee of the Board of Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board of Directors or such committee, as the case may be, by conference telephone, video facilities or other communications equipment. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors or any committee thereof may be taken without a meeting if all of the members of the Board of Directors or the committee, as the case may be, consent thereto in writing, and the writing or writings are filed with the minutes of the Board of Directors or such committee.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**Committees of the Board of**  
**Directors**

Section 1. Audit Committee.

(A) The Audit Committee shall be composed of not less than three (3) members, who shall be selected by the Board of Directors from its own members, none of whom shall be an officer or employee of the Company, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board.

(B) The Audit Committee shall have general supervision over the Audit Services Division in all matters however subject to the approval of the Board of Directors; it shall consider all matters brought to its attention by the officer in charge of the Audit Services Division, review all reports of examination of the Company made by any governmental agency or such independent auditor employed for that purpose, and make such recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect thereto or with respect to any other matters pertaining to auditing the Company as it shall deem desirable.

---

(C) The Audit Committee shall meet whenever and wherever its Chairman, the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer, the President or a majority of the Committee's members shall deem it to be proper for the transaction of its business. A majority of the Committee's members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The acts of the majority at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute action by the Committee.

Notwithstanding the provisions contained in Paragraphs (A), (B) and (C) of this Section 1, the responsibility and authority of the Audit Committee may, if authorized by law, be given over to a duly constituted audit committee of the Company's parent corporation by a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Other Committees. The Company may have such other committees with such powers as the Board may designate from time to time by resolution or by an amendment to these Bylaws.

Section 3. Absence or Disqualification of Any Member of a Committee. In the absence or disqualification of any member of any committee created under Article 3 of these Bylaws, the member or members thereof present at any meeting and not disqualified from voting, whether or not he, she or they constitute a quorum, may unanimously appoint another member of the Board of Directors to act at the meeting in the place of any such absent or disqualified member.

## ARTICLE 4

### Officers

Section 1. Officers. The Board of Directors shall annually, at the Annual Reorganization Meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, appoint or elect a Chairman of the Board, a Chief Executive Officer and a President, and one or more Vice Presidents, a Corporate Secretary, a Treasurer, a General Auditor, and such other officers as it may determine. At the Annual Reorganization Meeting, the Board of Directors shall also elect or reelect all of the officers of the Company to hold office until the next Annual Reorganization Meeting. In the interim between Annual Reorganization Meetings, the officers of the Company may be elected as follows and shall hold office until the next Annual Reorganization meeting unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors or such authorized officer(s) as set forth below:

(a) The Board of Directors may elect or appoint a Chairman of the Board, a Chief Executive Officer, a President or such additional officers to the rank of Vice President, including (without limitation as to title or number) one or more Administrative Vice Presidents, Group Vice Presidents, Senior Vice Presidents and Executive Vice Presidents, and any other officer positions as they deem necessary and appropriate;

---

(b) The Chief Executive Officer of M&T Bank, the head of the Human Resources Department of M&T Bank, and the President of M&T Bank or an executive Vice Chairman of M&T Bank, acting jointly, may appoint one or more officers to the rank of Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President; and

(c) The head of the Human Resources Department of M&T Bank or his or her designee or designees, may appoint other officers up to and including the rank of Group Vice President, including (without limitation as to title or number) one or more Administrative Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents, Assistant Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Treasurers, and Assistant Auditors, and any other officer positions as they deem necessary and appropriate.

Section 2. Chairman of the Board. The Chairman of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall have such further authority and powers and shall perform such duties the Board of Directors may assign to him or her from time to time.

Section 3. Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer shall have the powers and duties pertaining to the office of Chief Executive Officer conferred or imposed upon him or her by statute, incident to his or her office or as the Board of Directors may assign to him or her from time to time. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer shall have the powers and duties of the Chairman of the Board.

Section 4. President. The President shall have the powers and duties pertaining to the office of the President conferred or imposed upon him or her by statute, incident to his or her office or as the Board of Directors may assign to him or her from time to time. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer, the President shall have the powers and duties of the Chairman of the Board.

Section 5. Duties. The Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the President, as designated by the Board of Directors, shall carry into effect all legal directions of the Board of Directors and shall at all times exercise general supervision over the interest, affairs and operations of the Company and perform all duties incident to his or her office.

Section 6. Vice Presidents. There may be one or more Vice Presidents, however denominated by the Board of Directors, who may at any time perform all of the duties of the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer and/or the President and such other powers and duties incident to their respective offices or as the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the President or the officer in charge of the department or division to which they are assigned may assign to them from time to time.

---

Section 7. Secretary. The Secretary shall attend to the giving of notice of meetings of the stockholders and the Board of Directors, as well as the committees thereof, to the keeping of accurate minutes of all such meetings, recording the same in the minute books of the Company and in general notifying the Board of Directors of material matters affecting the Company on a timely basis. In addition to the other notice requirements of these Bylaws and as may be practicable under the circumstances, all such notices shall be in writing and mailed well in advance of the scheduled date of any such meeting. He or she shall have custody of the corporate seal, affix the same to any documents requiring such corporate seal, attest the same and perform other duties incident to his or her office.

Section 8. Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall have general supervision over all assets and liabilities of the Company. He or she shall be custodian of and responsible for all monies, funds and valuables of the Company and for the keeping of proper records of the evidence of property or indebtedness and of all transactions of the Company. He or she shall have general supervision of the expenditures of the Company and periodically shall report to the Board of Directors the condition of the Company, and perform such other duties incident to his or her office or as the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the President may assign to him or her from time to time.

Section 9. Controller. There may be a Controller who shall exercise general supervision over the internal operations of the Company, including accounting, and shall render to the Board of Directors or the Audit Committee at appropriate times a report relating to the general condition and internal operations of the Company and perform other duties incident to his or her office.

There may be one or more subordinate accounting or controller officers however denominated, who may perform the duties of the Controller and such duties as may be prescribed by the Controller.

Section 10. Audit Officers. The officer designated by the Board of Directors to be in charge of the Audit Services Division of the Company, with such title as the Board of Directors shall prescribe, shall report to and be directly responsible to the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors.

There shall be an Auditor and there may be one or more Audit Officers, however denominated, who may perform all the duties of the Auditor and such duties as may be prescribed by the officer in charge of the Audit Services Division.

Section 11. Other Officers. There may be one or more officers, subordinate in rank to all Vice Presidents with such titles as shall be determined in accordance with Article 4, Section 1 of these Bylaws, who shall ex officio hold the office of Assistant Secretary of the Company and who may perform such duties as may be prescribed by the officer in charge of the department or division to which they are assigned.

---

Section 12. Powers and Duties of Other Officers. The powers and duties of all other officers of the Company shall be those usually pertaining to their respective offices, subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the President and the officer in charge of the department or division to which they are assigned.

Section 13. Number of Offices. Any one or more offices of the Company may be held by the same person, except that (A) no individual may hold more than one of the offices of Chief Financial Officer, Controller or Audit Officer and (B) none of the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the President may hold any office mentioned in Section 13(A).

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Stock and Stock Certificates**

Section 1. Transfer. Shares of stock shall be transferable on the books of the Company and a transfer book shall be kept in which all transfers of stock shall be recorded.

Section 2. Certificates. Every holder of stock shall be entitled to have a certificate signed by or in the name of the Company by the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the President or a Vice President, and by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary, of the Company, certifying the number of shares owned by him or her in the Company. The corporate seal affixed thereto, and any of or all the signatures on the certificate, may be a facsimile. In case any officer, transfer agent or registrar who has signed or whose facsimile signature has been placed upon a certificate shall have ceased to be such officer, transfer agent or registrar before such certificate is issued, it may be issued by the Company with the same effect as if he or she were such officer, transfer agent or registrar at the date of issue. Duplicate certificates of stock shall be issued only upon giving such security as may be satisfactory to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Record Date. The Board of Directors is authorized to fix in advance a record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, any meeting of stockholders and any adjournment thereof, or entitled to receive payment of any dividend, or to any allotment of rights, or to exercise any rights in respect of any change, conversion or exchange of capital stock, or in connection with obtaining the consent of stockholders for any purpose, which record date shall not be more than 60 nor less than 10 days preceding the date of any meeting of stockholders or the date for the payment of any dividend, or the date for the allotment of rights, or the date when any change or conversion or exchange of capital stock shall go into effect, or a date in connection with obtaining such consent.

---

**ARTICLE 6**

**Seal**

The corporate seal of the Company shall be in the following form:

Between two concentric circles the words "Wilmington Trust Company" within the inner circle the words "Wilmington, Delaware."

**ARTICLE 7**

**Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Company shall be the calendar year.

**ARTICLE 8**

**Execution of Instruments of the  
Company**

The Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer, the President, any Vice President, or any other officer as shall be determined in accordance with Article 4, Section 1 of these Bylaws, shall have full power and authority to enter into, make, sign, execute, acknowledge and/or deliver and the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary shall have full power and authority to attest and affix the corporate seal of the Company to any and all deeds, conveyances, assignments, releases, contracts, agreements, bonds, notes, mortgages and all other instruments incident to the business of this Company or in acting as executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, agent or in any other fiduciary or representative capacity by any and every method of appointment or by whatever person, corporation, court officer or authority in the State of Delaware, or elsewhere, without any specific authority, ratification, approval or confirmation by the Board of Directors, and any and all such instruments shall have the same force and validity as though expressly authorized by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE 9**

**Compensation of Directors and Members of  
Committees**

Directors of the Company, other than salaried officers of the Company, shall be paid such reasonable honoraria or fees for attending meetings of the Board of Directors as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine. Directors who serve as members of committees, other than salaried

---

employees of the Company, shall be paid such reasonable honoraria or fees for services as members of committees as the Board of Directors shall from time to time determine and directors may be authorized by the Company to perform such special services as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine in accordance with any guidelines the Board of Directors may adopt for such services, and shall be paid for such special services so performed reasonable compensation as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **Indemnification**

Section 1. Persons Covered. The Company shall indemnify and hold harmless, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law as it presently exists or may hereafter be amended, any person who was or is made or is threatened to be made a party or is otherwise involved in any action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (a "proceeding") by reason of the fact that he, she or a person for whom he or she is the legal representative, is or was a director or associate director of the Company, a member of an advisory board the Board of Directors of the Company or any of its subsidiaries may appoint from time to time or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee, fiduciary or agent of another corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, trust, enterprise or non-profit entity that is not a subsidiary or affiliate of the Company, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, against all liability and loss suffered and expenses reasonably incurred by such person. The Company shall be required to indemnify such a person in connection with a proceeding initiated by such person only if the proceeding was authorized by the Board of Directors.

The Company may indemnify and hold harmless, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law as it presently exists or may hereafter be amended, any person who was or is made or threatened to be made a party or is otherwise involved in any proceeding by reason of the fact that he, she, or a person for whom or she is the legal representative, is or was an officer, employee or agent of the Company or a director, officer, employee or agent of a subsidiary or affiliate of the Company, against all liability and loss suffered and expenses reasonably incurred by such person. The Company may indemnify any such person in connection with a proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person only if such proceeding (or part thereof) was authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Advancement of Expenses. The Company shall pay the expenses incurred in defending any proceeding involving a person who is or may be indemnified pursuant to Section 1 in advance of its final disposition, provided, however, that the payment of expenses incurred by such a person in advance of the final disposition of the proceeding shall be made only upon receipt of an undertaking by that person to repay all amounts advanced if it should be ultimately determined that the person is not entitled to be indemnified under this Article 10 or otherwise.

Section 3. Certain Rights. If a claim under this Article 10 for (A) payment of expenses or (B) indemnification by a director, member of an advisory board the Board of Directors of the Company or any of its subsidiaries may appoint from time to time or a person who is or was serving at the request of the



---

Company as a director, officer, employee, fiduciary or agent of another corporation, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, trust, enterprise or nonprofit entity that is not a subsidiary or affiliate of the Company, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, is not paid in full within sixty days after a written claim therefor has been received by the Company, the claimant may file suit to recover the unpaid amount of such claim and, if successful in whole or in part, shall be entitled to be paid the expense of prosecuting such claim. In any such action, the Company shall have the burden of proving that the claimant was not entitled to the requested indemnification or payment of expenses under applicable law.

Section 4. Non-Exclusive. The rights conferred on any person by this Article 10 shall not be exclusive of any other rights which such person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, provision of the Restated Charter or Act of Incorporation, these Bylaws, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise.

Section 5. Reduction of Amount. The Company's obligation, if any, to indemnify any person who was or is serving at its request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, enterprise or nonprofit entity shall be reduced by any amount such person may collect as indemnification from such other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, enterprise or nonprofit entity.

Section 6. Effect of Modification. Any amendment, repeal or modification of the foregoing provisions of this Article 10 shall not adversely affect any right or protection hereunder of any person in respect of any act or omission occurring prior to the time of such amendment, repeal or modification.

#### **ARTICLE 11** **Amendments to the Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, in whole or in part, and any new Bylaw or Bylaws adopted at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors by a vote of a majority of all the members of the Board of Directors then in office.

#### **ARTICLE 12** **Miscellaneous**

Whenever used in these Bylaws, the singular shall include the plural, the plural shall include the singular unless the context requires otherwise.

---

**EXHIBIT 6**

**Section 321(b) Consent**

Pursuant to Section 321(b) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, Wilmington Trust Company hereby consents that reports of examinations by Federal, State, Territorial or District authorities may be furnished by such authorities to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request therefor.

**WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY**

Dated: May 24, 2019

By: /s/ John T. Needham, Jr.  
Name: John T. Needham, Jr.  
Title: Vice President

---

**EXHIBIT 7****REPORT OF CONDITION**

WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY of Wilmington  
Name of Bank City

in the State of Delaware, at the close of business on March 31, 2019:

	<b>Thousands of Dollars</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and balances due from depository institutions:	1,062,207
Securities:	0
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreement to resell:	0
Loans and leases held for sale:	0
Loans and leases net of unearned income, allowance:	0
Premises and fixed assets:	408
Other real estate owned:	0
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies:	0
Direct and indirect investments in real estate ventures:	0
Intangible assets:	0
Other assets:	14,217
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>1,076,832</b>

	<b>Thousands of Dollars</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Deposits	0
Federal Funds Purchased and Securities Sold Under Agreements to Repurchase	0
Other borrowed money:	0
Other Liabilities:	470,539
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>470,539</b>

	<b>Thousands of Dollars</b>
<b>EQUITY CAPITAL</b>	
Common Stock	5
Surplus	533,950
Retained Earnings	72,338
Accumulated other comprehensive income	0
Total Equity Capital	606,293
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity Capital</b>	<b>1,076,832</b>

[\(Back To Top\)](#)