

CHENG DUNSON K
Form 4
February 20, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
CHENG DUNSON K

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
777 NORTH BROADWAY
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
02/19/2009

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Chairman, President, & CEO

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	02/19/2009		D ⁽¹⁾	20,000 D \$ 0	395,258.41 ⁽²⁾	D	
Common Stock					99,931	I	By ESOP
Common Stock					239,308	I	Husband & Wife Trust

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. D	9. S	10. (
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Stock Option	\$ 10.625							01/20/2001 ⁽³⁾	01/20/2010	Common Stock	73,320			
Stock Option	\$ 15.0475							01/18/2002 ⁽³⁾	01/18/2011	Common Stock	74,160			
Stock Option	\$ 16.275							02/21/2003 ⁽³⁾	02/21/2012	Common Stock	79,320			
Stock Option	\$ 19.925							01/16/2004 ⁽³⁾	01/16/2013	Common Stock	153,060			
Stock Option	\$ 24.8							11/20/2004 ⁽³⁾	11/20/2013	Common Stock	246,940			
Stock Option	\$ 37							02/17/2006 ⁽⁴⁾	02/17/2015	Common Stock	154,940			
Stock Option	\$ 32.47							03/22/2005 ⁽³⁾	03/22/2015	Common Stock	245,060			
Stock Option	\$ 33.54							11/20/2005 ⁽³⁾	05/12/2015	Common Stock	264,694			
Stock Option	\$ 36.24							01/25/2007 ⁽⁵⁾	01/25/2016	Common Stock	154,940			
Stock Option	\$ 23.37							02/21/2009 ⁽⁶⁾	02/21/2018	Common Stock	154,970			
Stock Option	\$ 23.37							02/21/2009 ⁽⁷⁾	02/21/2018	Common Stock	100,000			

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

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Director 10% Owner Officer Other

CHENG DUNSON K
777 NORTH BROADWAY X Chairman, President, & CEO
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Signatures

Dunson K. 02/20/2009
Cheng

__Signature of Date
Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Forfeiture of restricted stock.
- (2) Includes 435.74 shares acquired through dividend reinvestment year-to-date.
- (3) The option is fully exercisable.
- (4) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/17/06.
- (5) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 1/25/07.
- (6) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09.
- (7) The option vests in 2 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.