

MEDNAX, INC.
Form S-3ASR
October 31, 2013
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 31, 2013

Registration No. 333-

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

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

MEDNAX, INC.

(Exact Name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Florida
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

26-3667538
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

1301 Concord Terrace

Sunrise, Florida 33323

(954) 384-0175

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Dominic J. Andreano

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

MEDNAX, Inc.

1301 Concord Terrace

Sunrise, Florida 33323

(954) 384-0175

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copies of communications to:

Ira N. Rosner, Esq.

Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

333 Avenue of the Americas (S.E. 2nd Avenue)

Miami, Florida 33131

(305) 579-0500

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement, as determined by market conditions and other factors.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered 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 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 Accelerated filer
 Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed	Proposed	Amount of Registration Fee(1)
		Maximum Offering Price per Unit(1)	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share,
Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share,
Depositary Shares, Debt Securities,
Guarantees(2), Warrants, Stock Purchase
Contracts and Stock Purchase Units

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate offering price and number or amount of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be sold at indeterminate prices, either by the issuer or by selling security holders. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon conversion of, or in exchange for, or upon exercise of, convertible or exchangeable securities. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
- (2) Represents guarantees, if any, of the debt securities by certain subsidiaries of the registrant to be named in a post-effective amendment to this registration statement. Pursuant to Rule 457(n) under the Securities Act, no separate registration fee will be paid in respect of any such guarantees.

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PROSPECTUS

**Common Stock, Preferred Stock,
Depository Shares, Debt Securities, Guarantees, Warrants,
Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units**

We are MEDNAX, Inc., a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida. This prospectus relates to the public offer and sale of common stock, preferred stock, depository shares, debt securities, guarantees, warrants, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units that we and the subsidiary guarantors named in a related prospectus supplement may offer from time to time in one or more series. We and/or selling security holders may offer and sell the securities separately, together or as units, in separate classes or series, in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined at the time of sale and set forth in a supplement to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and other offering materials carefully before you invest.

We and/or selling security holders may offer the securities from time to time through public or private transactions, and in the case of our common stock, on or off the New York Stock Exchange, at prevailing market prices or at privately negotiated prices. Sales may be made directly to purchasers or to or through agents, broker-dealers or underwriters. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of these securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the names of the agents or underwriters and any applicable fees, commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of securities will also be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MD.

Before buying any offered securities, you should carefully consider the Risk Factors contained in this prospectus, beginning on page 4.

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

Prospectus dated October 31, 2013.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that we filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. By using a shelf registration statement, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus from time to time in one or more offerings. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Because these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus provides you only with a general description of the securities we or the selling security holders may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the terms of the securities offered. The supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read this prospectus, any supplement and any free writing prospectus related to the applicable securities that is prepared by us or on our behalf or that is otherwise authorized by us, together with the additional information described under the heading **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference** found on page 36.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any supplement to this prospectus and any free writing prospectus related to the applicable securities that is prepared by us or on our behalf or that is otherwise authorized by us. Neither we nor the selling security holders have authorized any other person to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provides you with additional, different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor the selling security holders will make 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, as well as information we have previously filed with the SEC and incorporate herein by reference, is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Neither we nor the selling security holders will use this prospectus to offer and sell securities unless it is accompanied by a supplement that more fully describes the securities being offered and the terms of the offering.

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FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

We are making this statement pursuant to the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements described in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We make statements in this prospectus and in the documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus that are forward-looking. When used in this prospectus or in any other presentation, statements which are not historical in nature, including the words anticipate, estimate, could, should, may, plan, seek, expect, believe, hope, intend, target, will, project, forecast, positioned, etc., these words and negatives thereof and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. They also include statements regarding:

our future growth and profitability;

our competitive strengths; and

our business strategy and the trends we anticipate in the industries and economies in which we operate. These forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors, some of which are beyond our control, are difficult to predict, and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in the forward-looking statements.

We believe that these forward-looking statements are reasonable; however, you should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which are based on current expectations. Furthermore, forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. If any of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if any of our underlying assumptions are incorrect, our actual results may differ significantly from the results that we express in, or imply by, any of our forward-looking statements. These and other risks are detailed in this prospectus, in the documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus and in other documents that we file with the SEC. We do not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus to reflect future events or circumstances, except as required by applicable law. We qualify any and all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary factors.

The issues and associated risks and uncertainties discussed in Risk Factors herein and in the reports that we incorporate herein by reference are not the only ones we may face. Additional issues may arise or become material as our business evolves. The risks and uncertainties associated with those additional issues could impair our business in the future.

As used in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms MEDNAX, the Company, we, us and our refer to the registrant, MEDNAX, Inc., a Florida corporation, and the consolidated subsidiaries through which its businesses are actually conducted (collectively, MDX), together with MDX s affiliated professional associations, corporations and partnerships (affiliated professional contractors). Certain subsidiaries of MDX have contracts with our affiliated professional contractors, which are separate legal entities that provide physician services in certain states and Puerto Rico.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. Before deciding to purchase any of our securities, you should carefully consider the discussion of risks and uncertainties under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and under similar headings in our subsequently filed quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and annual reports on Form 10-K, as well as the other risks and uncertainties described in any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See the section entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" in this prospectus. The risks and uncertainties we discuss in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are those we currently believe may materially affect our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial also may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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OUR COMPANY

This summary highlights selected information and does not contain all the information that is important to you. You should carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and the documents to which we have referred to in Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference on page 36 of this prospectus for information about us and our financial statements.

MEDNAX is a leading provider of physician services including newborn, maternal-fetal, other pediatric subspecialties, and anesthesia care. Our national network comprises over 2,200 affiliated physicians, including approximately 1,025 physicians who provide neonatal clinical care, in 34 states and Puerto Rico, primarily within hospital-based neonatal intensive care units, to babies born prematurely or with medical complications. We have over 200 affiliated physicians who provide maternal-fetal care to expectant mothers experiencing complicated pregnancies and obstetrical hospitalist services in many areas where our affiliated neonatal physicians practice. Our network includes other pediatric subspecialists, including approximately 120 physicians providing pediatric cardiology care, 100 physicians providing pediatric intensive care, 60 physicians providing hospital-based pediatric care and 15 physicians providing pediatric surgical care. In addition, we have over 725 physicians who provide anesthesia care to patients in connection with surgical and other procedures as well as pain management.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving patient care through evidence-based medicine, we also conduct clinical research, monitor clinical outcomes and implement clinical quality initiatives with a view to improving patient outcomes, shortening the length of hospital stays and reducing long-term health system costs. We believe that referring and collaborating physicians, hospitals, third-party payors and patients all benefit from our clinical research, education and quality initiatives.

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida in 2007 and are the successor to Pediatrix Medical Group, Inc., which was incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida in 1979. Our principal executive offices are located at 1301 Concord Terrace, Sunrise, Florida 33323. Our telephone number is (954) 384-0175.

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**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES
AND PREFERENCE DIVIDENDS**

The following table sets forth our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges and ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013	2012	Year Ended December 31,			
		2011	2010	2009	2008	
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	29.5	34.9	34.7	32.4	32.1	32.4
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends(1)	29.5	34.9	34.7	32.4	32.1	32.4

(1) To date, we have not issued preferred stock or incurred any preferred stock dividends.

For the purpose of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings were calculated using income from continuing operations before income taxes and adding fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, amortization of capitalized expenses related to indebtedness and estimated interest within rental expense.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Primary Offerings

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we expect to use the net proceeds of the sale of these securities for general corporate purposes, which may include:

acquisitions of assets and businesses;

repayment of indebtedness outstanding at that time; and

general working capital.

Any specific allocation of the net proceeds of an offering of securities to a specific purpose will be determined at the time of such offering and will be described in the related supplement to this prospectus.

Secondary Offerings

The details of any secondary offerings will be set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement, and we will not receive any proceeds from any selling security holder's sale of our securities registered hereunder.

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DESCRIPTION OF COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCK

The following summarizes certain material terms and provisions of our capital stock. It does not purport to be complete, however, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Florida law and by the actual terms and provisions contained in our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, our Articles of Amendment Designating Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock and our Amended and Restated Bylaws, each as amended to the date hereof.

Overview

Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation authorize our board of directors, or our Board of Directors, to issue up to 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of October 24, 2013, we had approximately 50,293,793 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding. All issued and outstanding shares of our common stock are duly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The following descriptions set forth certain general terms and provisions of our common and preferred stock to which a supplement to this prospectus may relate. The particular terms of the shares of common or preferred stock being offered and the extent to which the general provisions may apply will be described in the applicable supplement to this prospectus. If so indicated in the applicable supplement to this prospectus, the terms of any series of shares of preferred stock may differ from the terms set forth below, except with respect to those terms required by our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, Articles of Amendment Designating Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock and Amended and Restated Bylaws.

General Description of our Common Stock

Each share of our common stock entitles its owner to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of our shareholders. Subject to the rights of the holders of our preferred stock, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends, when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, in its discretion, from funds legally available for the payment of dividends, payable in cash, stock or otherwise. If we liquidate, dissolve or wind-up, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, the holders of our common stock, to the exclusion of the holders of our preferred stock, will be entitled to share proportionately in our assets, if any, legally available for distribution to shareholders, but only after we have paid all of our debts and liabilities and after the holders of our preferred stock have been paid in full the amounts to which they are entitled, if any, or a sum sufficient for such payment has been set aside.

Our common stock has no preemptive rights, no sinking fund provisions and no subscription, redemption or conversion privileges, and it is not subject to any further calls or assessments by us. Our common stock does not have cumulative voting rights. Moreover, directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the shares entitled to vote in the election at a meeting in which a quorum is present; however, our Board of Directors adopted in 2012 a majority vote policy as part of our corporate governance principles which provides that, in uncontested elections, which are those elections in which the number of nominees for election is less than or equal to the number of directors to be elected, any nominee for director who receives more withheld votes than for votes must submit a written offer to resign as director. Any such resignation will be reviewed by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of our Board of Directors and, within 90 days after the election, the independent members of our Board of Directors will determine whether to accept, reject or take other appropriate action with respect to, the resignation, in furtherance of the best interests of MEDNAX and our shareholders. Additionally, unless otherwise required by the New York Stock Exchange, the vote or concurrence of our shareholders holding a majority in interest of our common stock is sufficient for certain other actions that require the vote or concurrence of shareholders. See Material Provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

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The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Investor Services.

General Description of Preferred Stock

Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation authorize our Board of Directors, without further shareholder approval, to:

issue preferred stock in one or more class or series;

establish the number of shares to be included in each such class or series, including increasing and decreasing the number of shares of preferred stock designated for any existing class or series; and

fix the designations, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each class or series and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions on those shares.

The Board of Directors may establish a class or series of preferred stock with preferences, powers and rights (including voting rights) senior to the rights of the holders of our common stock. If we issue any of our preferred stock, it may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control.

Our Articles of Amendment Designating Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock designate 50,000 shares of preferred stock as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or Series A Preferred. As of October 24, 2013, no shares of Series A Preferred were outstanding. Subject to the rights of the holders of our preferred stock senior to the Series A Preferred, if any, and certain other conditions, the holders of our Series A Preferred will be entitled to receive cumulative quarterly dividends, when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors, in its discretion, from funds legally available for the payment of dividends. Each share of Series A Preferred will be entitled to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment of \$1.00 per share but will be entitled to an aggregate dividend of 2,000 times the dividend declared per share of common stock. Each share of Series A Preferred entitles the holder thereof to 2,000 votes on all matters submitted to a vote of our shareholders and the Series A Preferred vote together with our common stock as one class, unless otherwise required by any future articles of designation or by law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the holders of our Series A Preferred have no special voting rights and their consent is not required for taking any corporate action, except to the extent set forth in our Articles of Amendment Designating Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the Series A Preferred will be entitled to a minimum preferential liquidation payment of \$1.00 per share but will be entitled to an aggregate payment of 2,000 times the payment made per share of Common Stock. Finally, in the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which our common stock is exchanged, each share of Series A Preferred will be entitled to receive 2,000 times the amount received per share of our common stock. These rights are protected by customary antidilution provisions.

If shares of Series A Preferred were to be issued, the voting and consent rights provided in our Articles of Amendment Designating Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control. Our Series A Preferred has no preemptive rights, no sinking fund provisions and no subscription, redemption or conversion privileges, and it is not subject to any further calls or assessments by us. In addition, our Series A Preferred must rank, with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets, junior to all series of any other class of our preferred stock.

Material Provisions of Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws

Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated Bylaws contain material provisions that may make the acquisition of control of us more difficult.

Classified Board of Directors and Related Provisions. Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws provide that the number of our directors will be established from time to time by resolution of our Board of Directors. Our Amended and Restated Bylaws also provide that our Board of

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Directors may be divided into two or more classes of directors. Although our Board of Directors is not currently classified, a classified Board of Directors could prevent a party who acquires control of a majority of our outstanding voting stock from obtaining control of the Board of Directors until the second annual shareholders meeting following the date on which the acquirer obtains its controlling interest.

Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation provide that our shareholders may only remove a director from office prior to the expiration of his or her term if such removal is for cause and only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all of our outstanding capital stock entitled to vote for the election of directors. If there is a vacancy on our Board of Directors, a majority of our remaining directors, although less than a quorum of the entire Board of Directors, may fill such vacancy for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor, or until the next election of one or more directors by our shareholders if the vacancy is caused by an increase in the size of our Board of Directors. Our shareholders may not fill any vacancy on our Board of Directors.

Shareholder Action By Written Consent. Our Amended and Restated Bylaws provide that any actions which our shareholders may take at a shareholders meeting can be taken by written consent in lieu of a meeting.

In order to effect a shareholder action by written consent in lieu of a meeting, holders of our outstanding voting stock, having at least the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize the action at a shareholders meeting, must sign a written consent which states the action to be taken. If our shareholders take any action by written consent in lieu of a meeting, we must notify all of our shareholders that did not consent to the action in writing or that were not entitled to vote on the action within 10 days after receiving the written consent and describe the action to them.

Shareholder-Proposed Business. In addition to any other applicable requirements, for business to be properly brought by a shareholder before an annual meeting of the shareholders, our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation require that such shareholder give timely notice thereof in writing to our Secretary. If such notice is not timely given, the shareholder-proposed business will not be brought before such annual meeting. To be timely, a shareholder's notice must be delivered to or mailed and received at our principal executive offices neither less than 120 days nor more than 180 days prior to the first anniversary of the date of our notice of annual meeting provided to shareholders with respect to the previous year's annual meeting. If no annual meeting of shareholders was held in the previous year or the date of the current year's annual meeting has been changed to be more than 30 calendar days earlier than the date contemplated by the previous year's proxy statement, such shareholder's notice must be so delivered or received no later than the close of business on the 10th day following the date on which notice the current year's annual meeting is given to shareholders or made public, whichever occurs first.

Indemnification. Our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation provide that we shall indemnify, and may advance expenses to, our officers and directors to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Florida Anti-Takeover Statute

As a Florida corporation, we are subject to certain anti-takeover provisions that apply to public corporations under Florida law. Pursuant to Section 607.0901 of the Florida Business Corporation Act, or the Florida Act, a publicly held Florida corporation may not engage in a broad range of business combinations or other extraordinary corporate transactions with an interested shareholder without the approval of the holders of two-thirds of the voting shares of the corporation (excluding shares held by the interested shareholder), unless, among other exceptions:

the transaction is approved by a majority of disinterested directors;

the interested shareholder has owned at least 80% of the corporation's outstanding voting shares for at least five years preceding the announcement date of any such business combination;

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the interested shareholder is the beneficial owner of at least 90% of the outstanding voting shares of the corporation, exclusive of shares acquired directly from the corporation in a transaction not approved by a majority of the disinterested directors; or

the consideration paid to the holders of the corporation's voting stock is at least equal to certain fair price criteria.

Subject to certain exceptions, an interested shareholder is defined as a person who together with affiliates and associates beneficially owns more than 10% of a corporation's outstanding voting shares. Although permitted by the Florida Act, we have not made an election in our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation to opt out of Section 607.0901.

In addition, we are subject to Section 607.0902 of the Florida Act which prohibits the voting of shares in a publicly held Florida corporation that are acquired in a control share acquisition unless (i) our Board of Directors approved such acquisition prior to its consummation or (ii) after such acquisition, in lieu of prior approval by our Board of Directors, the holders of a majority of the corporation's voting shares, exclusive of shares owned by officers of the corporation, employee directors or the acquiring party, approve the granting of voting rights as to the shares acquired in the control share acquisition. A control share acquisition is defined as an acquisition that immediately thereafter entitles the acquiring party to 20% or more of the total voting power in an election of directors.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may issue depositary shares, each of which will represent a whole or fractional interest of a share of a particular class or series of our preferred stock, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement which will more fully describe the terms of those depositary shares. Shares of a class or series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement among us, the depositary named therein and the holders from time to time of the depositary receipts issued by the preferred stock depositary which will evidence the depositary shares. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary receipt will be entitled, in proportion to the whole or fractional interest of a share of a particular class or series of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares evidenced by that depositary receipt, to all the rights and preferences of the class or series of preferred stock represented by those depositary shares (including dividend, voting, conversion, redemption and liquidation rights).

The depositary shares to be issued will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the applicable deposit agreement. Immediately following the issuance and delivery of a class or series of preferred stock by us to the preferred stock depositary, we will cause the preferred stock depositary to issue, on our behalf, the depositary receipts. The following description of the depositary shares, and any description of the depositary shares in a prospectus supplement, may not be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the underlying deposit agreement and the depositary receipt, which we will file with the SEC at or prior to the time of the sale of the depositary shares. You should refer to, and read this summary together with, the deposit agreement and related depositary receipt. You can obtain copies of any form of deposit agreement or other agreement pursuant to which the depositary shares are issued by following the directions described under the caption **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The preferred stock depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of a class or series of preferred stock to the record holders of depositary receipts evidencing the related depositary shares in proportion to the number of those depositary receipts owned by those holders, subject to certain obligations of holders to file proofs, certificates and other information and to pay certain charges and expenses to the preferred stock depositary.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the preferred stock depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts entitled thereto, subject to certain obligations of holders to file proofs, certificates and other information and to pay certain charges and expenses to the preferred stock depositary, unless the preferred stock depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution, in which case the preferred stock depositary may, with our approval, sell that property and distribute the net proceeds from that sale to those holders.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the corporate trust office of the preferred stock depositary (unless the related depositary shares have previously been called for redemption or converted into excess preferred stock or otherwise), the holders thereof will be entitled to delivery at that office, to or upon that holder's order, of the number of whole or fractional shares of the class or series of preferred stock and any money or other property represented by the depositary shares evidenced by those depositary receipts. Holders of depositary receipts will be entitled to receive whole or fractional shares of the related class or series of preferred stock on the basis of the proportion of preferred

stock represented by each depositary share as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, but holders of those shares of preferred stock will not thereafter be entitled to receive depositary shares therefor. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of

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depository shares in excess of the number of depository shares representing the number of shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the preferred stock depository will deliver to that holder at the same time a new depository receipt evidencing the excess number of depository shares.

Redemption of Depository Shares

Whenever we redeem shares of a class or series of preferred stock held by the preferred stock depository, the preferred stock depository will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depository shares representing shares of the class or series of preferred stock so redeemed, provided we shall have paid in full to the preferred stock depository the redemption price of the preferred stock to be redeemed plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon to the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depository share will be equal to the corresponding proportion of the redemption price and any other amounts per share payable with respect to that class or series of preferred stock. If fewer than all the depository shares are to be redeemed, the depository shares to be redeemed will be selected pro rata (as nearly as may be practicable without creating fractional depository shares) or by any other equitable method determined by us that will not result in the issuance of any excess preferred stock.

From and after the date fixed for redemption, all dividends in respect of the shares of a class or series of preferred stock so called for redemption will cease to accrue, the depository shares so called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of the depository receipts evidencing the depository shares so called for redemption will cease, except the right to receive any moneys payable upon their redemption and any money or other property to which the holders of those depository receipts were entitled upon their redemption and surrender thereof to the preferred stock depository.

Voting

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of a class or series of preferred stock deposited with the preferred stock depository are entitled to vote, the preferred stock depository will mail the information contained in that notice of meeting to the record holders of the depository receipts evidencing the depository shares which represent that class or series of preferred stock. Each record holder of depository receipts evidencing depository shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for that class or series of preferred stock) will be entitled to instruct the preferred stock depository as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of preferred stock represented by that holder's depository shares. The preferred stock depository will vote the amount of that class or series of preferred stock represented by those depository shares in accordance with those instructions, and we will agree to take all reasonable action which may be deemed necessary by the preferred stock depository in order to enable the preferred stock depository to do so. The preferred stock depository will abstain from voting the amount of that class or series of preferred stock represented by those depository shares to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depository receipts evidencing those depository shares. The preferred stock depository shall not be responsible for any failure to carry out any instruction to vote, or for the manner or effect of any vote made, as long as that action or non-action is in good faith and does not result from negligence or willful misconduct of the preferred stock depository.

Liquidation Preference

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each depository receipt will be entitled to the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each share of preferred stock represented by the depository shares evidenced by that depository receipt, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Conversion and Exchange

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to conversion or exchange, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the rights or obligations of each record holder of depositary receipts to convert or exchange the depositary shares.

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Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares which represent the preferred stock and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the preferred stock depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary receipts or that would be materially and adversely inconsistent with the rights granted to the holders of the related class or series of preferred stock will not be effective unless that amendment has been approved by the existing holders of at least two-thirds of the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipts then outstanding. No amendment shall impair the right, subject to certain exceptions in the deposit agreement, of any holder of depositary receipts to surrender any depositary receipt with instructions to deliver to the holder the related class or series of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented thereby, except in order to comply with law. Every holder of an outstanding depositary receipt at the time any of those types of amendments becomes effective shall be deemed, by continuing to hold that depositary receipt, to consent and agree to that amendment and to be bound by the deposit agreement as amended thereby.

We may terminate the deposit agreement upon not less than 30 days prior written notice to the preferred stock depositary if a majority of each class or series of preferred stock subject to that deposit agreement consents to that termination, whereupon the preferred stock depositary shall deliver or make available to each holder of depositary receipts, upon surrender of the depositary receipts held by that holder, that number of whole or fractional shares of each class or series of preferred stock as are represented by the depositary shares evidenced by those depositary receipts together with any other property held by the preferred stock depositary with respect to those depositary receipts. Additionally, the deposit agreement will automatically terminate if:

all outstanding depositary shares issued thereunder shall have been redeemed;

there shall have been a final distribution in respect of each class or series of preferred stock subject to that deposit agreement in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and that distribution shall have been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares representing that class or series of preferred stock; or

each share of preferred stock subject to that deposit agreement shall have been converted into our stock not so represented by depositary shares.

Charges of Preferred Stock Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the deposit agreement. In addition, we will pay the fees and expenses of the preferred stock depositary in connection with the performance of its duties under the deposit agreement. However, holders of depositary receipts will pay the fees and expenses of the preferred stock depositary for any duties requested by those holders to be performed which are outside of those expressly provided for in the deposit agreement.

Resignation and Removal of Preferred Stock Depositary

The preferred stock depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the preferred stock depositary, that resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a

successor preferred stock depositary. A successor preferred stock depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

Miscellaneous

The preferred stock depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts any reports and communications from us which are received by it with respect to the related preferred stock.

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Neither we nor the preferred stock depositary will be liable if it is prevented from or delayed in, by law or any circumstances beyond its control, performing its obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the preferred stock depositary under the deposit agreement will be limited to performing our respective duties thereunder in good faith and without negligence (in the case of any action or inaction in the voting of a class or series of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares), gross negligence or willful misconduct, and neither we nor the preferred stock depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary receipts, depositary shares or shares of a class or series of preferred stock represented thereby unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the preferred stock depositary may rely on written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting shares of a class or series of preferred stock represented thereby for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed in good faith to be competent to give that information, and on documents believed in good faith to be genuine and signed by a proper party.

In the event the preferred stock depositary shall receive conflicting claims, requests or instructions from any holders of depositary receipts, on the one hand, and us, on the other hand, the preferred stock depositary shall be entitled to act on those claims, requests or instructions received from us.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

We may issue senior and subordinated debt securities under indentures by and among us, certain of our subsidiaries and U.S. Bank National Association, as the indenture trustee. Each indenture will be subject to, and governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act, and we may supplement the indenture from time to time.

This prospectus summarizes the material provisions of the indentures and the debt securities that we may issue under the indentures. This summary is not complete and may not describe all of the provisions of the indentures or of any of the debt securities that might be important to you. For additional information, you should carefully read the forms of indenture and debt securities that are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and any definitive indentures, supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities that are incorporated by reference as exhibits to such registration statement.

When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of those debt securities in a supplement to this prospectus. We will also indicate in the supplement whether the general terms in this prospectus apply to a particular series of debt securities. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of a particular issue of debt securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and the applicable supplement.

In the summary below, we have included references to the section numbers of the indentures so that you can easily locate the related provisions in the indentures for additional detail. You should also refer to the applicable indenture for the definitions of any capitalized terms that we use below but do not define in this prospectus. When we refer to particular sections of the indentures or to defined terms in the indentures, we intend to incorporate by reference those sections and defined terms into this prospectus.

Terms

The debt securities will be our direct obligations. The amount of debt securities we may offer under this prospectus is unlimited as to principal amount. We may issue the debt securities, from time to time and in one or more series, established in or pursuant to authority granted by one or more resolutions of our Board of Directors, and set forth in, or determined in the manner provided in, an officers' certificate, or established in one or more supplemental indentures. We may issue debt securities with terms different from those of our previously issued debt securities (Section 301).

Each indenture provides that there may be more than one trustee under such indenture, each such trustee with respect to one or more series of debt securities. Any trustee under the indentures may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities, and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to that series (Sections 608 and 609). If two or more persons act as trustee with respect to different series of debt securities, each trustee shall be a trustee of a trust under that indenture separate and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee (Sections 101 and 609). Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus, each trustee may take any action described in this prospectus only with respect to the one or more series of debt securities for which it is trustee under the relevant indenture.

You should refer to the applicable supplement to this prospectus relating to a particular series of debt securities for the specific terms of the debt securities, including, but not limited to:

the title of the debt securities, whether the debt securities will be guaranteed and the identity of the guarantor or guarantors, if any;

the total principal amount of the debt securities and any limit on the total principal amount;

the price, expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the debt securities, at which we will issue the debt securities and any portion of the principal amount payable upon acceleration of the debt securities;

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the terms, if any, by which holders of the debt securities may convert or exchange the debt securities for our common stock, our preferred stock or any of our other securities or property;

if the debt securities are convertible or exchangeable, any limitations on the ownership or transferability of the securities or property into which holders may convert or exchange the debt securities;

the date or dates, or the method for determining the date or dates, on which we will be obligated to pay the principal of the debt securities and the amount of principal we will be obligated to pay;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities of the series will bear interest, if any, or the method by which the rate or rates will be determined;

whether the debt securities rank as senior, senior subordinated or subordinated or any combination thereof and the terms of any subordination;

the date or dates, or the method for determining the date or dates, from which any interest will accrue on the debt securities, the dates on which we will be obligated to pay any interest, the regular record dates, if any, for the interest payments, or the method by which the dates will be determined, the persons to whom we will be obligated to pay interest and the basis upon which interest will be calculated, if other than that of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months;

the place or places where the principal of, and any premium, make-whole amount, interest or additional amounts on, the debt securities will be payable, where the holders of the debt securities may surrender their debt securities for conversion, transfer or exchange, and where the holders may serve notices or demands to us in respect of the debt securities and the indenture (Section 101);

whether the debt securities will be in registered or bearer form, and the terms and conditions relating to the form, and, if in registered form, the denominations in which we will issue the debt securities if other than \$1,000 or a multiple of \$1,000 and, if in bearer form, the denominations in which we will issue the debt securities if other than \$5,000;

the identity of the trustee of the debt securities of the series and, if other than the trustee, the identity of each security registrar and/or paying agent for debt securities of the series;

the period or periods during which the price or prices, including any premium at which, the currency or currencies in which, and the other terms and conditions upon which, we may redeem the debt securities at our option, if we have such an option;

any obligation that we have to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities under any sinking fund or similar provision or at the option of a holder of debt securities and the terms and conditions upon which we will redeem, repay or purchase all or a portion of the debt securities under that obligation;

the currency or currencies in which we will sell the debt securities and in which the debt securities will be denominated and payable;

whether the amount of payment of principal of, and any premium, make-whole amount or interest on, the debt securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method and the manner in which the amounts will be determined;

whether the principal of, and any premium, make-whole amount, additional amounts or interest on, the debt securities of the series are to be payable, at our election or at the election of a holder of the debt securities, in a currency or currencies other than that in which the debt securities are denominated or stated to be payable, the period or periods during which, and the terms and conditions upon which, this election may be made, and the time and manner of, and identity of the exchange rate agent responsible for, determining the exchange rate between the currency or currencies in which the debt securities are denominated or stated to be payable and the currency or currencies in which the debt securities will be payable;

the designation of the initial exchange rate agent, if any, or any depositaries;

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any provisions granting special rights to the holders of the debt securities of the series at the occurrence of named events;

any additions to, modifications of or deletions from the terms of the debt securities with respect to the events of default or covenants contained in the indenture;

whether the debt securities of the series will be issued in certificated or book-entry form and the related terms and conditions, including whether any debt securities will be issued in temporary and/or permanent global form, and if so, whether the owners of interests in any permanent global debt security may exchange those interests for debt securities of that series and of like tenor of any authorized form and denomination and the circumstances under which any exchanges may occur, if other than in the manner provided in the indenture (Section 305), and, if debt securities of or within the series are to be issuable as a global debt security, the identity of the depositary for such series;

the date as of which any bearer securities, and/or temporary global debt security representing outstanding securities of or within the series will be dated if other than the date of original issuance of the first debt security of the series to be issued;

if the debt securities will be issued in definitive form only upon our receipt, or the trustee's receipt, of certificates or other documents, or upon the satisfaction of conditions, a description of those certificates, documents or conditions;

if the debt securities will be issued upon the exercise of debt warrants, the time, manner and place for the debt securities to be authenticated and delivered;

the applicability, if any, of the defeasance and covenant defeasance provisions of the indenture, as described below under "Certain Covenants Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance";

any applicable U.S. federal income tax consequences, including whether and under what circumstances we will pay any additional amounts, as contemplated in the indenture on the debt securities, to any holder who is not a U.S. person in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge withheld or deducted and, if we will pay additional amounts, whether, and on what terms, we will have the option to redeem the debt securities in lieu of paying the additional amounts;

the provisions, if any, relating to any security provided for the debt securities of the series;

any other covenant or warranty included for the benefit of the debt securities of the series;

any proposed listing of the debt securities on any securities exchange or market; and

any other terms of the debt securities or of any guarantees issued in connection with the debt securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the indenture (Section 301).

The debt securities may provide for our payment of less than their entire principal amount if their maturity is accelerated as a result of the occurrence and continuation of an event of default (Section 502). If this is the case, the debt securities would have what is referred to as original issue discount. Any special U.S. federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may issue debt securities from time to time, with the principal amount payable on any principal payment date, or the amount of interest payable on any interest payment date, to be determined by reference to one or more currencies or currency exchange rates, commodity prices, equity indices or other factors. Holders of debt securities with these features may receive payment of a principal amount on any principal payment date, or a payment of interest on any interest payment date, that is greater than or less than the amount of principal or interest otherwise payable on the applicable dates, depending upon the value on those dates of the applicable currencies or currency exchange rates, commodity prices, equity indices or other factors.

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Information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest payable on any date, the currencies or currency exchange rates, commodity prices, equity indices or other factors to which the amount payable on that date is linked and additional tax considerations will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement. All debt securities of any one series will be substantially identical, except as to denomination and except as may otherwise be provided by an officers' certificate or in any supplement to the applicable indenture. We are not required to issue all of the debt securities of a series at the same time, and, unless otherwise provided in the applicable indenture, supplemental indenture or officers' certificate, we may re-open a series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of that series to issue additional debt securities of that series.

The indentures do not contain any provisions that limit our ability to incur indebtedness or that would protect holders of debt securities in the event we become a party to a highly-leveraged or similar transaction in which we would incur or acquire a large amount of additional debt, but such provisions may appear in the applicable prospectus supplement. You should refer to the applicable prospectus supplement for information regarding any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the events of default or covenants that are described below, including any addition of a covenant or other provision providing event risk or similar protection.

Guarantees

Debt securities may be issued and unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by us or certain of our subsidiaries that are listed as guarantors in the applicable supplement to this prospectus. Any guarantee would cover the timely payment of the principal of, and any premium, make-whole amount, interest or sinking fund payments on, the debt securities, whether we make the payment at a maturity date, as a result of acceleration or redemption or otherwise. We will more fully describe the existence and terms of any guarantee of any of our debt securities by us or our subsidiaries in the prospectus supplement relating to those debt securities.

Denominations, Interest, Registration and Transfer

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, any debt securities of any series that we issue in registered form will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000, and debt securities of any series that we issue in bearer form will be issued in denominations of \$5,000 (Section 302).

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the principal of, and any premium, make-whole amount or interest on, any series of debt securities will be payable in the currency designated in the prospectus supplement at the corporate trust office of the trustee, initially, U.S. Bank National Association Global Corporate Trust Services, 1349 W. Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1050, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. At our option, however, payment of interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to the interest payment as it appears in the security register for the series or by wire transfer of funds to that person at an account maintained within the United States (Sections 301, 305, 307 and 1002). We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind designation of any paying agents or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for any series. All monies that we pay to a paying agent for the payment of any principal of, or any premium, make-whole amount, interest or additional amounts on, any debt security which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after that payment became due and payable will be repaid to us. After that time, the holder of the debt security will be able to look only to us for payment (Section 1003).

Any interest that we do not punctually pay on any interest payment date with respect to a debt security will cease to be payable to the holder on the applicable regular record date and may either:

be paid to the holder at the close of business on a Special Record Date for the payment of defaulted interest, to be determined by the trustee (Sections 101 and 307); or

be paid at any time in any other lawful manner, as more fully described in the indentures.

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