

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

Form 8-K

December 21, 2012

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 20, 2012

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 0-18630 95-4274680
(State or other jurisdiction (Commission (IRS Employer
of incorporation) File Number) Identification No.)

777 North Broadway, Los Angeles, California 90012
(Address of principal executive office) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (213) 625-4700

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers

On December 20, 2012, the boards of directors of both Cathay General Bancorp and Cathay Bank increased the number of their directors from eleven to twelve and elected Felix Fernandez as a director. He will serve as a Class III director of Cathay General Bancorp effective January 2, 2013. The Class III directors will hold office until the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders and their successors are elected and qualified.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Press Release of Cathay General Bancorp dated December 21, 2012.*

*This exhibit shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: December 21, 2012

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

By: /s/ Heng W. Chen
Heng W. Chen
Executive Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Number Exhibit

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