TILLY'S, INC. Form DEF 14A May 01, 2013 Table of Contents

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

# **SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant x Filed by a Party other than the Registrant "

Check the appropriate box:

- " Preliminary Proxy Statement
- " Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- x Definitive Proxy Statement
- " Definitive Additional Materials
- " Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

Tilly s, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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10 Whatney, Irvine, CA 92618

May 1, 2013

#### Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders of Tilly s, Inc., to be held on June 12, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., local time, at our headquarters located at 10 Whatney, Irvine, California 92618. The attached notice of meeting and proxy statement describe the matters to be acted upon at the annual meeting. We urge you to read this information carefully.

Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting personally, and regardless of the number of shares of Tilly s stock you own, it is important that your shares be represented at the annual meeting. We are pleased to take advantage of Securities and Exchange Commission rules that allow companies to furnish their proxy materials over the internet. As a result, we are mailing to most of our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice ) instead of a paper copy of our proxy materials, which include the Notice of Annual Meeting, our Proxy Statement, our 2012 Annual Report and a proxy card or voting instruction form. The Notice contains instructions on how to access our proxy materials on the internet, how to cast your vote and how to request a paper copy of our proxy materials. All stockholders who do not receive the Notice will receive a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail. If you receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, you can cast your vote by completing the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the postage-prepaid envelope provided.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your participation.

Hezy Shaked Executive Chairman of the Board and Chief Strategy Officer

10 Whatney, Irvine, CA 92618

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF TILLY S, INC. STOCKHOLDERS

#### **TO BE HELD ON JUNE 12, 2013**

#### TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

The 2013 annual meeting of stockholders of Tilly s, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., local time, at our headquarters located at 10 Whatney, Irvine, California 92618. We will consider and act on the following items of business at the annual meeting:

- 1. Election of six directors for a term of office expiring at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The nominees for election to our board of directors are Hezy Shaked, Doug Collier, Daniel Griesemer, Seth Johnson, Janet Kerr and Bernard Zeichner.
- Ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending February 1, 2014; and
- 3. Such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.

The Proxy Statement accompanying this notice describes each of these items of business in more detail. Our board of directors recommends: a vote FOR each of the six nominees for director named in this Proxy Statement and a vote FOR the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending February 1, 2014.

If you were a holder of record of Tilly s Class A common stock or Class B common stock at the close of business on April 22, 2013, you are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Christopher M. Lal Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Irvine, California

May 1, 2013

## TILLY S, INC.

10 Whatney, Irvine, CA 92618

#### PROXY STATEMENT

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

# TO BE HELD ON JUNE 12, 2013

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#### TILLY S, INC.

10 Whatney, Irvine, CA 92618

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON JUNE 12, 2013

#### PROXY STATEMENT

#### INFORMATION CONCERNING VOTING AND SOLICITATION

#### Solicitation of Proxies is Made by the Tilly s, Inc. Board of Directors

The board of directors of Tilly s, Inc. (Tilly s, the Company, we, our or us) is soliciting proxies to be used at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., local time, at our headquarters located at 10 Whatney, Irvine, California 92618, and at any continuation, adjournment or postponement thereof. References to our website in this Proxy Statement are not intended to function as hyperlinks and the information contained on our website is not intended to be incorporated into this Proxy Statement. As permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Tilly s is providing most stockholders with access to our proxy materials over the internet rather than in paper form. Accordingly, on or about May 1, 2013, we will mail a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) containing instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the internet to most of our stockholders. We will mail printed copies of the full set of proxy materials to the rest of our stockholders. If you receive the Notice by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials in the mail unless you follow the instructions contained on the Notice for requesting such materials. The Notice instructs you how to access and review all of the important information contained in our Proxy Statement and our 2012 Annual Report to Stockholders over the internet.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on June 12, 2013:

Our Proxy Statement and our 2012 Annual Report to Stockholders are Available at www.tillys.com/proxy. This website address contains the following documents: the Notice of the Annual Meeting, our Proxy Statement and our 2012 Annual Report to Stockholders. You are encouraged to access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials before voting.

#### Who Can Vote, Outstanding Shares

Record holders of our Class A common stock and holders of our Class B common stock as of the close of business on April 22, 2013, the record date for the annual meeting, may vote at the annual meeting. As of the record date, there were 10,792,859 shares of our Class A common stock outstanding, each entitled to one vote, and there were 16,919,910 shares of our Class B common stock outstanding, each entitled to ten votes. There were approximately 14 stockholders of record as of the record date.

#### How You Can Vote

Any stockholder as of the record date may vote by attending the annual meeting and voting in person.

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If you received a proxy card in the mail, you may vote by completing, signing and mailing a completed proxy card to the following address: Tilly s, Inc. c/o Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 17 Battery Place, & Floor, New York, New York 10275-1138 using the postage-prepaid envelop provided to you.

If you received the Notice, you may follow the procedures outlined in the Notice to vote or you may request a paper proxy card to submit your vote by mail using the procedures described above.

If you hold your shares of common stock in street name you will receive a notice from your broker, bank or other nominee that includes instructions on how to vote your shares. Your broker, bank or other nominee will allow you to deliver your voting instructions via the internet and may also permit you to submit your voting instructions by telephone. In addition, you may request paper copies of our Proxy Statement and proxy card by following the instructions on the notice provided by your broker, bank or other nominee.

**YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT.** You should submit your proxy even if you plan to attend the annual meeting. If you properly give your proxy and submit it to us in time to vote, the individuals named as your proxy holders will vote your shares as you have directed.

All shares entitled to vote and represented by properly submitted proxies received before the polls are closed at the annual meeting, and not revoked or superseded, will be voted at the annual meeting in accordance with the instructions indicated on those proxies.

If you submit a signed proxy card or submit your proxy by telephone or internet and do not specify how you want your shares voted, the proxy holder designated by the Company will vote your shares according to the recommendation of our board, as follows:

FOR the election of all of the director nominees; and

FOR ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending February 1, 2014 (which we refer to as fiscal 2013).

In their discretion, the proxy holders named in the proxy are authorized to vote on any other matters that may properly come before the annual meeting and at any continuation, postponement or adjournment of the annual meeting. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, our board does not know of any other items of business that will be presented for consideration at the annual meeting other than those described in this Proxy Statement.

#### **Voting in Person**

If you plan to attend the annual meeting and wish to vote in person, you will be given a ballot at the annual meeting. Please note that if your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee, and you decide to attend and vote at the annual meeting, your vote in person at the annual meeting will not be effective unless you present a legal proxy, issued in your name from your broker, bank or other nominee. Even if you plan to attend the annual meeting, we encourage you to submit your proxy to vote your shares in advance of the annual meeting.

Stockholders who wish to attend the annual meeting will be required to present verification of ownership of our common stock, such as a bank or brokerage firm account statement and will be required to present a valid government-issued picture identification, such as a driver s license or passport, to gain admittance to the annual meeting.

No cameras, recording equipment, electronic devices, large bags, briefcases or packages will be permitted in the annual meeting.

#### How You May Revoke or Change Your Vote

As a stockholder of record, you have the power to revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted. A proxy may be revoked by a stockholder of record by:

delivering a written notice of revocation to our Secretary at or before the annual meeting;

presenting to our Secretary, at or before the annual meeting, a later dated proxy executed by the person who executed the prior proxy; or

attending the annual meeting and voting in person.

Attendance at the annual meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy. Any written notice of revocation or delivery of a subsequent proxy by a stockholder of record may be sent to Tilly s, Inc., Attn: Secretary, 10 Whatney, Irvine, California, 92618, or hand delivered to our Secretary at or before the voting at the annual meeting.

If you hold your shares through a broker, bank or other nominee, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee. If you wish to vote in person, you must obtain a legal proxy issued to you by your broker, bank or other nominee.

#### **Quorum and Required Vote**

The inspector of elections appointed for the annual meeting will tabulate votes cast by proxy or in person at the annual meeting. The inspector of elections will also determine whether or not a quorum is present. In order to constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at the annual meeting, the holders of a majority in voting power of the stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the annual meeting must be present in person or represented by proxy. Shares that abstain from voting on any proposal, or that are represented by broker non-votes (as discussed below), will be treated as shares that are present and entitled to vote at the annual meeting for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists.

A broker holding shares of record for you is not entitled to vote on certain matters unless the broker receives voting instructions from you. Uninstructed shares, or broker non-votes, result when shares are held by a broker who has not received instructions from the beneficial owner on such matters and the broker has so notified us on a proxy form in accordance with industry practice or has otherwise advised us that the broker lacks voting authority.

Item No. 1: Election of Directors. Our Amended and Restated Bylaws provide for a plurality voting standard in the election of directors in uncontested elections, which are generally defined as elections in which the number of nominees does not exceed the number of directors to be elected at the meeting. In the election of directors, you may either vote for or withhold. Cumulative voting is not permitted. Under the plurality voting standard, the six nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes will be elected as directors to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not count as a vote for or against a nominee s election and thus will have no effect in determining whether a director nominee has received a plurality of the votes cast.

Item No. 2: Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. The approval of Item No. 2, ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2013 requires the affirmative vote of a majority in voting power of shares present at the annual meeting, in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions on Item No. 2 will have the same effect as a vote against Item No. 2. The approval of Item No. 2 is a routine proposal on which a broker or other nominee is generally empowered to vote in the absence of voting instructions from the beneficial owner, so broker non-votes are unlikely to result from this proposal.

#### **Costs of Solicitation**

The total cost of this solicitation, including preparing, printing and mailing this Proxy Statement, will be borne by us. In addition to solicitation by mail, our officers and employees may solicit proxies by telephone, by facsimile or in person. We do not expect to use a proxy solicitor to assist in the solicitation of proxies. We will reimburse brokers, nominees, fiduciaries and other custodians for reasonable expenses incurred by them in sending proxy soliciting material to the beneficial owners of our common stock.

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#### Stockholder List

A list of stockholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting will be available for examination by any stockholder for any purpose germane to the annual meeting during ordinary business hours at our corporate headquarters offices located at 10 Whatney, Irvine, California 92618 for the ten days prior to the annual meeting, and also at the annual meeting.

#### Confidentiality

It is our policy that all proxies, ballots and voting materials that identify the particular vote of a stockholder will be kept confidential, except in the following circumstances:

to allow the inspector of elections appointed for the annual meeting to certify the results of the vote;

as necessary to meet applicable legal requirements, including the pursuit or defense of a judicial action;

where we conclude in good faith that a bona fide dispute exists as to the authenticity of one or more proxies, ballots or votes, or as to the accuracy of the tabulation of such proxies, ballots or votes;

where a stockholder expressly requests disclosure or has made a written comment on a proxy card;

where contacting stockholders by us is necessary to obtain a quorum, the names of stockholders who have or have not voted (but not how they voted) may be disclosed to us by the inspector of elections appointed for the annual meeting; aggregate vote totals may be disclosed to us from time to time and publicly announced at the meeting of stockholders at which they are relevant; and

in the event of any solicitation of proxies or written consents with respect to any of our securities by a person other than us of which solicitation we have actual notice.

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#### Item No. 1

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our board of directors currently consists of six members. The current term of office of each of our directors expires at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders and each of the six directors is being nominated for a term expiring on the date of our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Our board appoints directors to fill vacancies on our board, as they occur, as well as vacancies resulting from newly created directorships, in each instance upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. A director appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve a term that expires at the next annual meeting of stockholders.

Upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, our board has nominated each of the following six persons to be elected to serve for a one-year term expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders in 2014. Each of the nominees for election currently serves as a director and has consented to serve for a new term if elected. Each nominated director was elected by our stockholders to his or her present term of office.

|                  |                            |       |              | Nominating & Corporate |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------|--------------|------------------------|
| Nominee          | Position with Us           | Audit | Compensation | Governance             |
| Hezy Shaked      | Co-Founder, Executive      |       |              |                        |
|                  | Chairman, Chief Strategy   |       |              |                        |
|                  | Officer and Director       |       |              |                        |
| Daniel Griesemer | President, Chief Executive |       |              |                        |
|                  | Officer and Director       |       |              |                        |
| Doug Collier     | Director                   | M     | M            | M                      |
| Seth Johnson     | Director                   | C     |              | M                      |
| Janet Kerr       | Director                   |       | M            | C                      |
| Bernard Zeichner | Director                   | M     | C            |                        |

C indicates Chair and M indicates Member of the respective committee.

#### **Board Recommendation**

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE <u>FO</u>R THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE SIX NAMED DIRECTOR NOMINEES.

Although it is anticipated that each nominee will be able to serve as a director, should any nominee become unavailable to serve, the shares of our common stock represented by the proxies will be voted for such other person or persons as may be designated by our board, unless our board reduces the number of directors accordingly. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, our board is not aware of any nominee who is unable or will decline to serve as a director.

#### **Information About Director Nominees**

Set forth below are descriptions of the backgrounds of each nominee and their principal occupations for at least the past five years and their public-company directorships as of the record date as well as those held during the past five years. There are no family relationships between any director or executive officer.

Hezy Shaked, 58, co-founded the Tilly s concept in 1982 and formed our company in 1984. He currently serves as our Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Strategy Officer. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors since our inception and has served as our Chief Strategy Officer since

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February 2011. From September 2008 to February 2011, Mr. Shaked served as our President and Chief Executive Officer. From September 2006 to September 2008, Mr. Shaked served as our Co-Chief Executive Officer. From our inception to September 2006, Mr. Shaked served as our President and Chief Executive Officer. As our Co-Founder and former President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Shaked has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of all facets of our business and has developed extensive professional relationships during his over 30 years of experience in the retail industry. Through his experience and knowledge of our operations and the industry in which we compete, Mr. Shaked is well-suited to serve as Executive Chairman of our Board of Directors.

Daniel Griesemer, 53, has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since February 2011, and has served on our board of directors since April 2011. Mr. Griesemer previously served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Director at Coldwater Creek, Inc., a publicly traded national specialty retailer, from October 2007 through September 2009. Prior to that, Mr. Griesemer served as Coldwater Creek, Inc. s President and Chief Operating Officer from March 2007 through October 2007, its Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing from January 2005 through March 2007, its Executive Vice President of Retail from April 2004 through January 2005 and its Senior Vice President of Retail from October 2001 through April 2004. From 1989 through 2000, Mr. Griesemer held a number of progressively more responsible positions with Gap, Inc., and ultimately served as Divisional Merchandise Manager for Gap, Inc. From 1983 to 1989, Mr. Griesemer worked in a variety of positions at Macy s, Inc. Mr. Griesemer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Dayton.

Mr. Griesemer brings to the board of directors extensive experience and demonstrated leadership capabilities, including leadership of a public company in the retail industry. Serving as a director and our President and Chief Executive Officer will allow Mr. Griesemer to act as a bridge between management and the board of directors to help ensure that both groups act with a common purpose.

Doug Collier, 50, has served on our board of directors since September 2011. He previously served as the Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of Volcom, Inc., a designer, marketer and distributor of premium quality young men s and young women s clothing, footwear, accessories and related products. Mr. Collier served as Volcom s Chief Financial Officer since 1994, which included leading its initial public offering in 2005, until Volcom s acquisition by PPR S.A. in June 2011. From 1991 to 1994, Mr. Collier served as the Controller at Mary Tyler Moore Studios. He was a senior analyst tax specialist at KPMG LLP from 1987 to 1990. Mr. Collier is currently a member of the Board of Directors, Chairperson of the Audit Committee and a member of the Nominating and Governance Committee of Skullcandy, Inc., a publicly traded maker of audio branded merchandise. He is a certified public accountant (inactive). With over 20 years of financial and apparel experience, including significant executive experience, Mr. Collier will provide our board of directors with operational, financial and strategic planning insights.

Seth Johnson, 59, has served on our board of directors since April 2011 and as Chairperson of our Audit Committee since August 2011. Prior to that, Mr. Johnson served as a member of the advisory committee to our board of directors from July 2008 through 2011. From 2007 to 2009, Mr. Johnson was an instructor in business strategy at Chapman University's Argyros School of Business and Economics. From 2005 to 2006, Mr. Johnson served as the Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Sunwear of California, Inc. From 1999 to 2004, Mr. Johnson was the Chief Operating Officer of Abercrombie & Fitch Co., a specialty retailer, and was its Chief Financial Officer from 1992 to 1998. During that time period, Mr. Johnson led Abercrombie & Fitch's initial public offering and participated in business growth from sales of \$85 million to over \$2 billion. Mr. Johnson is currently a member of the board of directors and serves as the Lead Director of True Religion Apparel, Inc., a publicly traded company. With over 30 years of apparel retail experience, including significant executive experience, Mr. Johnson will provide our board of directors with operational, financial and strategic planning insights.

Janet E. Kerr, 58, has served on our board of directors and as Chairperson of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee since August 2011. Prior to that, Ms. Kerr served as a member of the advisory committee to our board of directors from July 2008 through 2011. She is the founder and currently a professor of law and

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the Executive Director of the Geoffrey H. Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California. Ms. Kerr has served as a consultant to various companies regarding Sarbanes-Oxley Act compliance and corporate governance. She has founded several technology companies and is a well-known author in the areas of securities, corporate law and corporate governance, having published several articles and a book on the subjects. Ms. Kerr was a co-founder of X-Labs, a technology company co-founded with HRL Laboratories. Ms. Kerr is currently a member of the board of directors and Chairperson of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of La-Z-Boy, Inc., a publicly traded furniture retailer and manufacturer. Additionally, she is a member of the board of directors of TCW Funds and TCW Strategic Income Fund, Inc., a New York Stock Exchange listed closed-end registered investment company. From 2004 to 2010, Ms. Kerr served as a member of the board of directors and Chairperson of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee for CKE Restaurants, Inc., a quick service restaurant company that was previously public and listed on the NYSE. Ms. Kerr is licensed to practice law in California and New York and occupies the Laure Sudreau-Rippe Endowed Chair at Pepperdine University School of Law. With over 30 years of corporate governance experience, Ms. Kerr contributes to our board significant expertise in the regulatory, governance and legal matters of public companies.

Bernard Zeichner, 69, has served on our board of directors since April 2011 and as Chairperson of our Compensation Committee since August 2011. Mr. Zeichner served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Charlotte Russe Holdings, Inc., a specialty retailer, from 1996 until May 2008, and was its President from May 1996 to June 2001 and its Chief Executive Officer from September 1996 to July 2003. Prior to joining Charlotte Russe, Mr. Zeichner was President of the retail division of Guess from 1993 to 1995. Prior to that, Mr. Zeichner was employed by Contempo Casuals, serving as President from 1982 to 1993 and as Chief Executive Officer from 1989 to 1993. From 1977 to 1982, Mr. Zeichner was Executive Vice President of Joske's of Texas, a department store chain. With over 30 years of apparel retail experience, including significant executive and board experience, Mr. Zeichner provides our board of directors with operational, financial and strategic planning insights.

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#### Item No. 2

#### RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee of our board is responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of our independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee has selected Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2013 and has further directed that management submit the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by our stockholders at the annual meeting. Deloitte & Touche LLP has audited our financial statements since our fiscal year 2006 financial statements.

Although ratification by our stockholders is not a prerequisite to the Audit Committee s ability to select Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee believes such ratification is advisable and in the best interests of our stockholders. Accordingly, stockholders are being requested to ratify, confirm and approve the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm to conduct the annual audit of our consolidated financial statements for fiscal year 2013. If the stockholders do not ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP, the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm will be reconsidered by the Audit Committee; provided, however, the Audit Committee may select Deloitte & Touche LLP notwithstanding the failure of our stockholders to ratify its selection. If the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP is ratified, the Audit Committee will continue to conduct an ongoing review of Deloitte & Touche LLP as scope of engagement, pricing and work quality, among other factors, and will retain the right to replace Deloitte & Touche LLP at any time.

#### **Board Recommendation**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE <u>FO</u>R THE RATIFICATION OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013.

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#### **AUDIT MATTERS**

#### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm s Fees

Aggregate fees billed to us for the fiscal years 2012 and 2011 by our independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, are as follows:

| Type of Fees       | 2012       | 2011         |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Audit Fees(1)      | \$ 565,770 | \$ 1,041,946 |
| Audit-Related Fees | 0          | 0            |
| Tax Fees           | 0          | 0            |
| All Other Fees     | 0          | 0            |
|                    |            |              |
| Total              | \$ 565,770 | \$ 1.041.946 |

(1) Represents the aggregate fees billed to us by Deloitte & Touche LLP for professional services rendered for the audit of our annual consolidated financial statements and for the reviews of our consolidated financial statements included in our Form 10-Q filings for each fiscal quarter of fiscal 2012. Audit fees for fiscal 2011 included services for the audit of our annual financial statements and for our initial public offering.

#### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm s Independence and Attendance at the Annual Meeting

The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of the above noted services by Deloitte & Touche LLP is compatible with maintaining the independent registered public accounting firm s independence and has determined that the provision of such services by Deloitte & Touche LLP has not adversely affected the independent registered public accounting firm s independence.

Representatives of Deloitte & Touche LLP are expected to be present at the annual meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they so request, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

#### Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval

As part of its required duties, the Audit Committee pre-approves audit and non-audit services performed by our independent registered public accounting firm to ensure that the provision of such services does not impair the independent registered public accounting firm s independence. Pre-approval may be given as part of the Audit Committee s approval of the scope of the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm or on an individual basis. The pre-approval of services may be delegated to one or more of the Audit Committee s members, but the decision must be presented to the full Audit Committee at a subsequent meeting. All services provided by our independent registered public accounting firm in 2012 were pre-approved in accordance with the Audit Committee s pre-approval requirements.

#### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

#### Composition of the Board of Directors of Tilly s, Inc.

Our bylaws provide that our board of directors shall consist of at least one member, with the exact number of directors to be determined by resolution of our board of directors. Our board of directors currently consists of six members. Based upon information requested from and provided by each director concerning his or her background, employment and affiliations, including family relationships, with us, our senior management and our independent registered public accounting firm, our board of directors has determined that all but two of our directors, Messrs. Shaked and Griesemer, are independent directors under the applicable listing standards of the NYSE and the rules of the SEC. We expect that our independent directors will hold at least two executive sessions per year. Our board met six times during fiscal 2012. No director attended fewer than 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings held by our board and the total number of meetings held by all committees of our board on which such director served during fiscal 2012. The Company strongly encourages its directors to attend its annual meetings of stockholders.

Until the date all shares of our Class B common stock are converted to Class A common stock or otherwise cease to be outstanding, referred to as the Full Conversion Date, the members of our board of directors will be elected at annual meetings of the stockholders and hold office until the next annual meeting of the stockholders. Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that on the Full Conversion Date, our board of directors will be divided into three classes to be comprised of the directors in office, with each class serving for a staggered three-year term. From the Full Conversion Date, Class I directors will serve an initial one-year term expiring at the first annual meeting of stockholders following the Full Conversion Date. Class III directors will serve an initial three-year term expiring at the third annual meeting of stockholders following the Full Conversion Date. Upon the expiration of the initial term of each class of directors, the directors in that class will be eligible to be elected for a new three-year term. Our directors will hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation, disqualification or removal. Executive officers are appointed by and serve at the direction of our board of directors.

#### **Committees of the Board of Directors**

We currently have three standing committees: an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The charters of our standing board committees are available on our website, at www.tillys.com, in the Investor Relations section. The inclusion of our website address in this Proxy Statement does not include or incorporate by reference the information on our website into this Proxy Statement.

#### Audit Committee

Our Audit Committee consists of Messrs. Johnson (Chairperson), Collier and Zeichner. Our board of directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee meets the financial literacy and experience requirements of the applicable SEC and NYSE rules. In addition, our board of directors has determined that Messrs. Collier and Johnson both qualify as an audit committee financial expert under the rules and regulations of the SEC and each are independent under applicable rules of the NYSE. Our independent auditors and our internal finance personnel regularly meet privately with, and have unrestricted access to, our Audit Committee. The Audit Committee met twelve times during fiscal 2012.

Our Audit Committee charter requires that the Audit Committee oversee our corporate accounting and financial reporting processes. The primary duties of our Audit Committee are to, among other things:

evaluate our independent registered accounting firm s qualifications, independence and performance;

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| <br>_ |            |  |  | - | <br> |  |  |  |
|-------|------------|--|--|---|------|--|--|--|
|       | engagement |  |  |   |      |  |  |  |
|       |            |  |  |   |      |  |  |  |
|       |            |  |  |   |      |  |  |  |

approve the retention of our independent registered accounting firm to perform any proposed, permissible non-audit services;

monitor the rotation of partners and managers of the independent registered accounting firm on our engagement team as required;

review our consolidated financial statements;

review our critical accounting policies and estimates;

meet periodically with our management and internal audit team to consider the adequacy of our internal controls and the objectivity of our financial reporting;

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

review on an ongoing basis and approve related party transactions, as defined in SEC and NYSE rules;

prepare the reports required by the rules of the SEC to be included in our annual proxy statement; and

discuss with our management and our independent registered accounting firm the results of our annual audit and the review of our quarterly consolidated financial statements.

Compensation Committee

Our Compensation Committee consists of Messrs. Zeichner (Chairperson) and Collier, and Ms. Kerr. Our board of directors has determined that each of these directors qualifies as a non-employee director and an outside director for purposes of Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and Section 162(m) of the Code, respectively. The Compensation Committee met four times during fiscal 2012. The primary duties of the Compensation Committee are to, among other things:

establish overall employee compensation policies and recommend to our board of directors major compensation programs;

review and approve the compensation of our corporate officers and directors, including salary and bonus awards;

administer our various employee benefit, cash and equity incentive programs;

review and approve any officer employment agreement and severance arrangement; and

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prepare an annual report on executive compensation for inclusion in our proxy statement. Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of Ms. Kerr (Chairperson), and Messrs. Collier and Johnson. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met five times during fiscal 2012. The primary duties of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are to, among other things:

establish standards for service on our board of directors and nominating guidelines and principles;

identify individuals qualified to become members of our board of directors and recommend director candidates for election to our board of directors;

consider and make recommendations to our board of directors regarding its size and composition, committee composition and structure and procedures affecting directors;

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establish policies regarding the consideration of any director candidates recommended by our stockholders, and the procedures to be followed by the stockholders in submitting such recommendations;

evaluate and review the performance of existing directors;

review executive officer and director indemnification and insurance matters;

evaluate and review the company s enterprise risk management policy and risk exposure; and

monitor our corporate governance principles and practices and make recommendations to our board of directors regarding governance matters, including our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and charters of our committees. While the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not have any specific, minimum qualifications for board nominees, in considering possible candidates for election as a director, the committee strives to compose a board with a collection of complementary skills and which, as a group, will possess the appropriate skills and experience to effectively oversee the Company s business. In evaluating a potential candidate for our board of directors, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee takes into account a number of factors, including: personal and professional integrity; ethics and values; experience in corporate management, such as current or past service as an officer of a publicly held company; and a general understanding of marketing, finance, and other elements relevant to the success of a publicly traded company; experience in the Company s industry; experience as a board member of another publicly held company; academic expertise in an area of the Company's operations; and practical and mature business judgment, including the ability to make independent analytical inquiries. Although diversity may be a consideration in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee s process, the committee does not have a formal policy regarding the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will review the qualifications and backgrounds of directors and nominees (without regard to whether a nominee has been recommended by a stockholder), as well as the overall composition of our board of directors, and recommend the slate of directors to be nominated for election at the next annual meeting of stockholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not currently employ or pay a fee to any third party to identify or evaluate, or assist in identifying or evaluating, potential director nominees.

If our board of directors determines to seek additional directors for nomination, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider as potential director nominees candidates recommended by various sources, including any member of our board of directors or senior management. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may also retain a third-party search firm to identify candidates. The committee also considers recommendations for nominees that are timely submitted by stockholders if such recommendations are delivered in the manner prescribed by the advance notice provisions contained in our bylaws. In addition to satisfying the timing, ownership and other requirements specified in our bylaws, a stockholder s notice must set forth as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to recommend all information relating to such person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors in an election contest, or is otherwise required, pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Exchange Act and our bylaws (including such person s written consent to being named in the proxy statement as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected). Properly communicated stockholder recommendations will be considered in the same manner as recommendations received from other sources.

Other Committees

Our board of directors may establish other committees as it deems necessary or appropriate from time to time.

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#### Risk Oversight

Our board of directors has an active role, as a whole and also at the committee level, in overseeing management of the Company s risks. Management is responsible for the Company s day-to-day risk management activities. The Company, through its internal auditor, has established an enterprise risk framework for identifying, aggregating, quantifying and evaluating risk across the enterprise. The review of risk management is a periodic agenda item for the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

Our other board committees also consider and address risk as they perform their committee responsibilities. For example, our Compensation Committee discusses and reviews compensation arrangements for the Company's executive officers to avoid incentives that would promote excessive risk-taking that reasonably would have a material adverse effect on the Company (see Compensation Risk Management), and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee oversees risks associated with operations of the board and its governance structure. In addition, at each regular Audit Committee meeting the Company's General Counsel reports on significant litigation, regulatory, public policy and other legal risks that may affect the Company. Our entire board monitors risks through regular reports from each of the committee chairs and members of management, and is apprised of particular risk management matters in connection with its general oversight and approval of corporate matters. We believe the division of risk management responsibilities described above is an effective approach for evaluating and addressing the risks facing the Company and that our board leadership structure supports this approach because it allows our independent directors, through the independent board committees, to exercise effective oversight of the actions of management.

#### Communication with the Board of Directors

Our annual meeting of stockholders provides an opportunity for stockholders to ask questions of, or otherwise communicate directly with, members of the board of directors on appropriate matters. In addition, stockholders may communicate in writing with our Executive Chairman or to our non-employee directors by sending such written communication to our Secretary at Tilly s, Inc., Attn: Secretary, 10 Whatney, Irvine, California 92618. Copies of written communications received at such address will be provided to the board of directors or the relevant director unless such communications are considered, in the reasonable judgment of our Secretary, to be inappropriate for submission to the intended recipient(s). Examples of stockholder communications that would be considered inappropriate for submission to the board of directors include, without limitation, customer complaints, solicitations, communications that do not relate directly or indirectly to our business or communications that relate to improper or irrelevant topics. The Secretary may analyze and prepare a response to the information contained in communications received and may deliver a copy of the communication to other Company staff members or agents who are responsible for analyzing or responding to complaints or requests.

#### **Code of Ethics and Business Conduct**

We have adopted a code of ethics and business conduct, which applies to all of our employees, executive officers and directors. Our code of ethics and business conduct is available on our website, at www.tillys.com, in the Investor Relations section. We will disclose future amendments to certain provisions of our code of ethics and business conduct, or waivers of such provisions, applicable to our directors and executive officers, at the same location on our website identified above.

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

None of the members of our Compensation Committee has at any time been one of our executive officers or employees or an executive officer or employee of our subsidiary. None of our executive officers has ever served as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any other entity that has or had one or more executive officers serving on our board of directors or our Compensation Committee.

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#### **Director Compensation**

Our non-employee directors receive the following annual retainers for their service on the board of directors:

|   | <br>al Retainer<br>be Paid |
|---|----------------------------|
| Service on board of directors                 | \$<br>40,000               |
| Chairperson of standing committee:            |                            |
| Audit Committee                               | \$<br>15,000               |
| Compensation Committee                        | \$<br>12,000               |
| Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee | \$<br>12,000               |
| Members of standing committee:                |                            |
| Audit Committee                               | \$<br>8,000                |
| Compensation Committee                        | \$<br>5,000                |
| Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee | \$<br>5,000                |

Annual service for retainer purposes relates to the approximate 12-month period between annual meetings of our stockholders and all retainers are paid in quarterly installments. A prorated annual retainer will be paid to any person who becomes a member of our board of directors, a committee chair or a member of any committee on a date other than the date of the annual meeting of our stockholders. Additionally, we will reimburse directors for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their duties.

In addition, each non-employee director will receive an annual restricted stock award grant under our 2012 Equity and Incentive Award Plan having a fair value at the time of grant equal to \$80,000, which will vest in two equal installments on each of the succeeding two anniversaries of the grant date. We anticipate annual grants will be made at each annual stockholders meeting.

The following table summarizes the cash compensation earned by our non-employee directors for fiscal year 2012:

| Non-employee Director | Fees Earned in<br>Fiscal 2012 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Doug Collier          | \$ 58,000                     |
| Seth Johnson          | \$ 68,000                     |
| Janet Kerr            | \$ 62,000                     |
| Bernard Zeichner      | \$ 65,000                     |

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#### SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

#### AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The following table sets forth information as of the record date, April 22, 2013, regarding the beneficial ownership of our Class A and Class B common stock by (i) each director and director nominee, (ii) our named executive officers for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2013, (iii) all of our current directors and executive officers as a group, and (iv) each person, or group of affiliated persons, known to us to beneficially own more than 5% of any class of our outstanding shares of common stock. The percentages of each class of securities shown below are based on 10,792,859 shares of Class A common stock and 16,919,910 shares of Class B common stock outstanding as of April 22, 2013. Each share of our Class A common stock is entitled to one vote per share and each share of our Class B common stock is entitled to ten votes per share. Unless otherwise noted, (a) subject to community property laws where applicable, each of the directors and nominees, named executive officers and executive officers has sole voting and/or investment power with respect to such shares and (b) the address of each of the individuals named below is: c/o Tilly s, Inc., 10 Whatney, Irvine, California, 92618.

|   | Shares of<br>Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | Rights to Acquire Class A Common Stock | Class A    | Shares of<br>Class B | Class B    | Percentage<br>of    |
|---|---|--|------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------|
|   | (1)                                     | (2)                                    | Percentage | Common Stock         | Percentage | Outstanding<br>Vote |
| Non-Employee Directors and                              | (1)                                     | (=)                                    | rereeninge | Common Stock         | rereentage | 1000                |
|   |   |  |            |                      |            |                     |
| Nominees  |   |  |            |                      |            |                     |
| Doug Collier  | 7,161                                   |  | *          |                      |            | *                   |
| Seth Johnson  | 10,161                                  | 7,500                                  | *          |                      |            | *                   |
| Janet Kerr  | 5,919                                   | 7,500                                  | *          |                      |            | *                   |
| Bernard Zeichner  | 15,161                                  |  | *          |                      |            | *                   |
| Named Executive Officers                                |   |  |            |                      |            |                     |
| Hezy Shaked <sup>(3)</sup>                              | 850,000                                 |  | 7.9%       | 13,239,910           | 78.3%      | 74.0%               |
| Daniel Griesemer  |   | 225,000                                | 2.0%       |                      |            | *                   |
| Bill Langsdorf  | 5,000                                   | 235,000                                | 2.2%       |                      |            | *                   |
| Debbie Anker-Morris                                     |   | 130,000                                | 1.2%       |                      |            | *                   |
| Craig DeMerit   |   | 77,500                                 | *          |                      |            | *                   |
| All current directors and executive officers as a group |   |  |            |                      |            |                     |
| (9 persons consisting of those named above)             | 893,402                                 | 682,500                                | 13.7%      | 13,239,910           | 78.3%      | 74.2%               |
| > 5% Stockholders                                       |   |  |            |                      |            |                     |
| Class B common stock                                    |   |  |            |                      |            |                     |
| Hezy Shaked Trust <sup>(3)</sup>                        |   |  |            | 8,700,000            | 51.4%      | 48.3%               |
| Tilly Levine Trust <sup>(4)</sup>                       |   |  |            | 4,539,910            | 26.8%      | 25.2%               |
| HS Annuity Trust <sup>(5)</sup>                         |   |  |            | 1,840,000            | 10.9%      | 10.2%               |
| TL Annuity Trust <sup>(5)</sup>                         |   |  |            | 1,840,000            | 10.9%      | 10.2%               |
| Class A common stock                                    |   |  |            |                      |            |                     |
| FMR LLC <sup>(6)</sup>                                  | 1,170,056                               |  | 10.8%      |                      |            | *                   |
| Paradigm Capital Management <sup>(7)</sup>              | 1,003,232                               |  | 9.3%       |                      |            | *                   |
| Frontier Capital Management <sup>(8)</sup>              | 875,177                                 |  | 8.1%       |                      |            | *                   |

<sup>\*</sup> Beneficially owns less than 1% of the applicable class of our outstanding common stock.

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes 5,161 unvested shares of restricted Class A common stock beneficially owned by each of Doug Collier, Seth Johnson, Janet Kerr and Bernard Zeichner. One-half of these shares vest on May 4, 2013 and the remainder on May 4, 2014.

<sup>(2)</sup> Represents shares of Class A common stock the person or group has a right to acquire upon exercise of stock options that are vested as of April 22, 2013 or within sixty (60) days thereafter.

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(3) Shares of Class A common stock represent 850,000 shares of Class A common stock held by Reid Investments, LLC, of which Mr. Shaked is the sole manager with sole voting and dispositive power over the

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- securities held thereby. Shares of Class B common stock represent (a) 8,700,000 shares of Class B common stock held by The Hezy Shaked Living Trust established May 18, 1999, under which Mr. Shaked is the trustee and beneficiary with sole voting and dispositive power and (b) 4,539,910 shares of Class B common stock held by The Tilly Levine Separate Property Trust established March 31, 2004, under which Ms. Levine is the trustee and beneficiary (the Levine Shares), which are described in note 4 below.
- (4) Represents the Levine Shares. Pursuant to a voting trust agreement under which Mr. Shaked serves as trustee, Ms. Levine previously granted Mr. Shaked the right to vote the Levine Shares and thus Mr. Shaked may be deemed to beneficially own the Levine Shares. Ms. Levine retains dispositive power over and full economic interest in the Levine Shares.
- (5) Amy Shaked and Netta Shroer-Shaked are co-trustees of the HS Annuity Trust established August 6, 2010 and the TL Annuity Trust established August 6, 2010, and have shared voting and dispositive power over the shares of Class B common stock held thereby.
- (6) Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on March 11, 2013, Fidelity Management & Research Company (Fidelity), a wholly owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 383,800 shares of our Class A Common Stock as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. The reported address for FMR LLC is 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Fidelity, each has sole power to dispose of the 383,800 shares owned by Fidelity s funds. Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company (PGATC), 900 Salem Street, Smithfield, Rhode Island, 02917, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and a bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, is the beneficial owner of 786,256 shares of our Class A common stock as a result of its serving as investment manager of institutional accounts owning such shares. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company, each has sole dispositive power over 786,256 shares and sole power to vote or to direct the voting of 786,256 shares of Class A common stock owned by the institutional accounts managed by PGATC as reported above.
- (7) Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 9, 2013, Paradigm Capital Management, Inc. has sole voting and dispositive power over 1,003,232 shares of our Class A common stock. The address of Paradigm Capital Management, Inc. is Nine Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207.
- (8) Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 14, 2013, Frontier Capital Management Co., LLC has sole voting power over 510,150 shares and sole dispositive power over 875,177 shares of our Class A common stock. The address of Frontier Capital Management Co., LLC is 99 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

#### **Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table summarizes information about our Class A common stock that may be issued upon the exercise of options, warrants and rights under all of our equity compensation plans, as of February 2, 2013:

| ımber of  |  |
|---|--|
| ecurities   |  |
| ning Available  |  |
| ture Issuance   |  |
| Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected |  |
| olumn (a))  |  |
| (c)   |  |
| 2,167,434(2)  |  |
|   |  |
| 2,167,434   |  |
| t   |  |

(1) Represents the weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options.

(2)

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Represents the number of securities remaining available for issuance under the Tilly s, Inc. 2012 Equity and Incentive Award Plan. The Tilly s, Inc. 2012 Equity and Incentive Award Plan superseded the 2007 Stock Option Plan.

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#### SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our executive officers, directors and persons who own more than ten percent of a registered class of our equity securities to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC and the NYSE. Executive officers, directors and greater than ten percent stockholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based solely on our review of the copies of such forms furnished to us and the written representations from certain of the reporting persons that no other reports were required, we believe that during the fiscal year ended February 2, 2013, all executive officers, directors and greater than ten percent beneficial owners complied with the reporting requirements of Section 16(a).

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#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The following table sets forth certain information about the executive officers as of April 22, 2013.

| Name                | Age | Position  |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| Hezy Shaked         | 58  | Co-Founder, Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors |
| Daniel Griesemer    | 53  | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director                                     |
| Bill Langsdorf      | 56  | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer                                   |
| Debbie Anker-Morris | 54  | Vice President and General Merchandising Manager                                    |
| Craig DeMerit       | 43  | Vice President, Chief Information Officer and Chief Operating Officer               |

Hezy Shaked co-founded the Tilly s concept in 1982 and formed our company in 1984. He currently serves as Executive Chairman of the Board and Chief Strategy Officer. Mr. Shaked has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors since our inception and has served as our Chief Strategy Officer since February 2011. From September 2008 to February 2011, Mr. Shaked served as our President and Chief Executive Officer. From September 2006 to September 2008, Mr. Shaked served as our Co-Chief Executive Officer. From our inception to September 2006, Mr. Shaked served as our President and Chief Executive Officer. As our Co-Founder and former President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Shaked has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of all facets of our business and has developed extensive professional relationships during his 30 years of experience in the retail industry.

Daniel Griesemer has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since February 2011, and has served on our board of directors since April 2011. Mr. Griesemer previously served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Director at Coldwater Creek, Inc., a publicly traded national specialty retailer, from October 2007 through September 2009. Prior to that, Mr. Griesemer served as Coldwater Creek, Inc. s President and Chief Operating Officer from March 2007 through October 2007, its Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing from January 2005 through March 2007, its Executive Vice President of Retail from October 2001 through April 2004. From 1989 through 2000, Mr. Griesemer held a number of progressively more responsible positions with Gap, Inc., and ultimately served as Divisional Merchandise Manager for Gap, Inc. From 1983 to 1989, Mr. Griesemer worked in a variety of positions at Macy s, Inc. Mr. Griesemer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Dayton.

Bill Langsdorf has served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since February 2007. From 2004 to February 2007, Mr. Langsdorf served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Anchor Blue Retail Group, Inc., or Anchor Blue, a specialty retailer. From 2002 to 2004 Mr. Langsdorf served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The Wet Seal, Inc., or The Wet Seal, a specialty retailer. From 1986 to 2002, Mr. Langsdorf served in various management positions at House2Home, Inc. (formerly Home Base, Inc.), with the last management position held of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining Home Base in 1986, Mr. Langsdorf was a Manager in the consulting practice of Ernst & Young LLP (formerly Arthur Young & Co.). Mr. Langsdorf holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton and a Masters of Management from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Mr. Langsdorf is a Certified Public Accountant (inactive).

Debbie Anker-Morris has served as our Vice President and General Merchandising Manager since May 2004. Prior to that, she held various senior management positions with Anchor Blue (1998-2004), Petrie Stores (1992-1997) and Charming Shoppes (1988-1991). Ms. Anker-Morris graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology with a degree in Fashion Buying and Merchandising and has over 30 years of experience in the retail industry.

Craig DeMerit has served as our Vice President of Information Systems since April 2004, our Chief Information Officer since 2008, and our Chief Information Officer and Chief Operating Officer since February 2011. From 1998 to 2004, Mr. DeMerit held various senior executive positions for Guess?, Inc., or Guess, an apparel company, the most recent of which was Vice President and Chief Information Officer. Prior to 1998, Mr. DeMerit was employed by Ticketmaster where he managed corporate technology. Mr. DeMerit has over 20 years of experience in the management of information systems, including 15 years of retail experience encompassing supply chain, technology and e-commerce.

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#### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

#### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis section discusses the material elements of the compensation programs and policies in place for our named executive officers, or NEOs, during fiscal year 2012. For fiscal year 2012, we had five NEOs, as follows:

Hezy Shaked, our Co-Founder, Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Strategy Officer;

Daniel Griesemer, our President and Chief Executive Officer:

Bill Langsdorf, our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer;

Debbie Anker-Morris, our Vice President and General Merchandising Manager; and

Craig DeMerit, our Vice President, Chief Information Officer and Chief Operating Officer.

Specifically, this section provides an overview of our executive compensation philosophy, the overall objectives of our executive compensation program and each compensation component that we provide. Each of the key elements of our executive compensation program is discussed in more detail below. Our compensation programs are designed to be flexible and complementary and to collectively serve the principles and objectives of our executive compensation and benefits program.

#### Role of our Compensation Committee and President and Chief Executive Officer in Compensation Decisions

Our Compensation Committee reviews and approves the future compensation of our NEOs and oversees and administers our executive compensation programs and policies. As we gain experience as a public company, we expect that the specific direction, emphasis and components of our executive compensation program will continue to evolve. Accordingly, the compensation paid to our NEOs for fiscal year 2012 is not necessarily indicative of how we will compensate our NEOs going forward.

The Compensation Committee annually reviews and meets outside the presence of all of our executive officers, including our NEOs, to consider appropriate compensation for our President and Chief Executive Officer. Our President and Chief Executive Officer review annually each of the other NEO s performance with the Compensation Committee and recommends appropriate compensation levels, which the Compensation Committee takes into account as one factor in its determinations regarding executive compensation. In addition, Mr. Shaked, given his tenure with the company and his role in shaping compensation historically, continues to have a purely advisory role in discussions with the Compensation Committee with respect to NEO compensation. In the context of such annual reviews and further periodic reviews as deemed necessary, in addition to a review of other factors discussed below, the Compensation Committee assesses the proper mix of base salary, cash incentive awards and grants of long-term equity incentive awards, levels of compensation and appropriate individual and corporate performance metrics in furtherance of the objectives and principles described below.

Our Compensation Committee may consider additional factors in determining executive compensation, including, comparing our executives compensation against executive compensation at a peer group of comparable companies. In furtherance of this objective, we previously engaged J. Richard & Co., an independent executive compensation and consulting firm, to advise management in its efforts to construct, from publicly available data, a peer group of companies to be used for compensation purposes in preparation for our initial public offering in May 2012, and to provide market compensation data on such peer group companies, supplemented by survey data, as appropriate, and general market trends and developments. Management used the information provided by J. Richard & Co. and other resources and tools to develop compensation recommendations presented to our Compensation Committee for fiscal 2012. The Compensation Committee believes that there was no conflict of interest between J. Richard & Co. and the Compensation Committee during the 2012 fiscal year.

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#### **Compensation Philosophy and Objectives**

Our Compensation Committee strives to create an executive compensation program that balances short-term versus long-term payments and awards, cash payments versus equity awards and fixed versus contingent payments and awards in ways that we believe are most appropriate to motivate our executive officers. Our philosophy is that executive compensation should be competitive in the marketplace in which we compete for executive talent, and structured to emphasize incentive-based compensation as determined by the achievement of both company and individual performance objectives. The retail industry is extremely competitive and in order to continue to succeed we believe we need a highly talented and seasoned team of sales, marketing, buying, financial and other business professionals. We recognize that our ability to attract and retain these professionals, as well as to grow our organization, largely depends on how we compensate and reward our employees.

The goals of our executive compensation program are to:

attract and retain talented and experienced executives in our industry;

motivate and reward executives whose knowledge, skills and performance are critical to our success;

align compensation incentives with our business and financial objectives and the long-term interests of our stockholders;

foster a shared commitment among executives by aligning their individual goals with the goals of the executive management team and our company; and

ensure that our total compensation is fair, reasonable and competitive.

#### **Elements of 2012 Compensation**

During fiscal year 2012, our NEOs total direct compensation, which was determined by our Compensation Committee, included both fixed components (base salary, other executive benefits and perquisites) and variable components (annual incentive cash bonuses and stock option grants). The following describes each component of compensation, the rationale for that component and how the compensation amounts were determined.

Base Salary

Base salaries historically have been the most heavily weighted component of compensation for our executive officers as a percentage of total compensation, and this remained true in fiscal year 2012. Base salary levels are designed to be competitive in order to induce talented executives to join our company. In addition, base salaries support our retention objective by providing our executive officers with steady cash flow during the course of the fiscal year that is not contingent on short-term variations in our corporate performance.

The base salary established for each of our NEOs is intended to reflect each individual s professional responsibilities, the skills and experience required for the job, their individual performance, the performance of our business, labor market conditions and competitive market salary levels.

Base salary levels for our NEOs in fiscal year 2012 were determined by our Compensation Committee as part of its annual review process, and were set as follows:

Mr. Shaked: \$400,000, which was approximately 37.5% lower than the base salary he received in fiscal year 2011 as a result of the completion of Mr. Shaked s executive management transition to our Chief Executive Officer Daniel Griesemer, and focusing his efforts as Chief Strategy Officer as part of our becoming a publicly traded company;

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Mr. Griesemer: \$700,000, which was the base salary he received in fiscal 2011;

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Mr. Langsdorf: \$375,000, which was approximately 5% higher than the base salary he received in fiscal 2011;

Ms. Anker-Morris: \$325,000, which was approximately 10.2% higher than the base salary she received in fiscal year 2011; and

Mr. DeMerit: \$280,000, which was approximately 3.7% higher than the base salary he received in fiscal year 2011. The base salary increases for Ms. Anker-Morris, and Messrs. Langsdorf and DeMerit were, in part, designed to reward these executives for their management activities during the 2011 fiscal year and to maintain their level of income with respect to cost of living increases.

#### Annual Incentive Cash Bonus

In March 2012, our Compensation Committee approved an incentive cash bonus plan for certain employees, including our NEOs. For fiscal 2012, the committee approved performance measures of operating income and comparable store sales increase, as described below. The committee selected these performance measures because it believes that achieving the target operating income and the target comparable store sales increase would generate significant stockholder returns. Consistent with his offer letter, our chief executive officer s bonus was determined based on achievement of operating income. No payouts were made until audited financial results were received, reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee after our fiscal year end.

For each of the performance measures of operating income and comparable store sales increase, the Compensation Committee established minimum performance, target performance and maximum target thresholds for the NEOs. The minimum performance threshold related to a minimum acceptable level of financial performance. Each succeeding threshold was designed to reward the NEOs based upon the improved financial performance of the business. The target threshold was the company s goal. The maximum threshold would pay out a higher percentage of base salary, which was designed as a stretch challenge. The Compensation Committee believed these goals would not be easily achieved. The following table shows the performance thresholds for each measure for fiscal 2012:

|  | Performance Threshold |         |         |  |  |
|--|-----------------------|---------|---------|--|--|
|  | Minimum               | Target  | Maximum |  |  |
| Comparable store sales growth                                | 5.3%                  | 8.2%    | 12.5%   |  |  |
| Operating income, excluding stock-based compensation expense |                       |         |         |  |  |
| (in millions)  | \$ 37.9               | \$ 44.6 | \$ 53.5 |  |  |

The following table represents the percentage of the respective NEO s base salary that will be earned upon achievement of the performance thresholds. The incentive cash bonus amount increases in a linear manner between the minimum threshold and the target threshold and between the target threshold and the maximum threshold.

| Executive     |  |   |   |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| Chairman/CSO  |  |   |   |
| and           |  |   | VP/   |
| CEO/President | SVP/CFO  | VP/GMM  | CIO/COO   |
| 0%            | 0%   | 0%  | 0%  |
| 100%          | 50%  | 40%   | 40%   |
| 200%          | 100%   | 80%   | 80%   |
|               | Chairman/CSO<br>and<br>CEO/President<br>0%<br>100% | Chairman/CSO and CEO/President SVP/CFO 0% 0% 100% 50% | Chairman/CSO           and         SVP/CFO         VP/GMM           0%         0%         0%           100%         50%         40% |

The Compensation Committee weighted operating income 75% and comparable store sales increase 25% in the structure of the cash incentive bonus, except for our Chief Executive Officer as described above. Therefore, for each performance threshold achieved, the calculation of the incentive cash bonus earned is as follows:

#### Base Salary (\$) x Threshold Percentage x Weighted Percentage

|  | Incentive<br>Cash Bonus<br>Compensation<br>Target |         | Ca<br>Coi | Incentive<br>Cash Bonus<br>Compensation<br>Actually Paid |  |
|--|---|---------|-----------|--|--|
| Hezy Shaked, Executive Chairman of the Board and Chief       |   |         |           |  |  |
| Strategy Officer   | \$  | 460,000 | \$        | 158,679  |  |
| Daniel Griesemer, President and Chief Executive Officer      | \$  | 700,000 | \$        | 321,957  |  |
| Bill Langsdorf, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial    |   |         |           |  |  |
| Officer  | \$  | 187,500 | \$        | 64,679   |  |
| Debbie Anker-Morris, Vice President and General              |   |         |           |  |  |
| Merchandising Manager  | \$  | 130,000 | \$        | 44,844   |  |
| Craig DeMerit, Vice President, Chief Information Officer and |   |         |           |  |  |
| Chief Operating Officer                                      | \$  | 112,000 | \$        | 38,635   |  |

Long-Term Equity-Based Compensation

We believe that long-term equity-based compensation is an important component of our executive compensation program. In addition, providing a portion of our NEOs total compensation package in long-term equity-based compensation aligns the incentives of our executives with the interests of our stockholders and with our long-term corporate success.

In April 2012, our board of directors adopted the Tilly s 2012 Equity and Incentive Award Plan, or the 2012 Plan.

Upon completion of our initial public offering in May 2012, we made grants of stock options covering an aggregate of 650,500 shares of our common stock, including the following grants of stock options to certain of our NEOs. The exercise price of these stock options is equal to the initial offering price of \$15.50 per share of our common stock, and the options vest in equal annual installments over four years from the date of grant.

Executive