

WONG IRWIN

Form 4

December 21, 2012

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
WONG IRWIN

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP
[CATY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

777 NORTH BROADWAY

(Street)

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(City) (State) (Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
12/20/2012

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

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)

EVP - Branch Administration

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

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	3,285	D	
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	10,509.66 ⁽¹⁾	D	
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	16,726	I	By ESOP

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not
required to respond unless the form
displays a currently valid OMB control**

SEC 1474
(9-02)

number.

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number Shares
Stock Option	\$ 19.925							01/16/2005 ⁽²⁾	01/16/2013	Common Stock	30,000
Stock Option	\$ 24.8							11/20/2004 ⁽²⁾	11/20/2013	Common Stock	143,000
Stock Option	\$ 37							02/17/2006 ⁽²⁾	02/17/2015	Common Stock	32,580
Stock Option	\$ 36.24							01/25/2007 ⁽²⁾	01/25/2016	Common Stock	31,000
Stock Option	\$ 23.37							02/21/2009 ⁽³⁾	02/21/2018	Common Stock	20,000
Restricted Stock Units	⁽⁴⁾							⁽⁵⁾	⁽⁵⁾	Common Stock	3,840
Restricted Stock Units	⁽⁴⁾							⁽⁶⁾	⁽⁶⁾	Common Stock	4,770
Restricted Stock Units	⁽⁴⁾							⁽⁷⁾	⁽⁷⁾	Common Stock	3,810
Restricted Stock Units	⁽⁴⁾	12/20/2012		A		6,001		⁽¹⁾⁽⁸⁾	⁽⁸⁾	Common Stock	6,001

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WONG IRWIN 777 NORTH BROADWAY			EVP - Branch Administration	

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Signatures

Monica Chen,
attorney-in-fact

12/21/2012

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Includes 13.205 shares acquired through dividend reinvestment year-to-date.
- (2) The option is fully exercisable.
- (3) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09.
Consists of long term restricted stock units within the meaning of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, as amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder ("EESA"). Each unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of CATY Common Stock.
- (4) Consists of long term restricted stock units within the meaning of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, as amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder ("EESA"). Each unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of CATY Common Stock.
- (5) These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on March 23, 2013, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.
- (6) These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on December 15, 2013, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.
- (7) These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on May 8, 2014, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.
- (8) These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on December 20, 2014, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.

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