VERISIGN INC/CA Form DEF 14A April 11, 2019 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 under §240.14a-12
- VeriSign, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(3) Filing Party:

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VeriSign, Inc. 12061 Bluemont Way Reston, Virginia 20190 April 11, 2019 To Our Stockholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of VeriSign, Inc. ("we," "our," "us" or the "Company") to be held at our corporate offices located at 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, Virginia 20190 on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time.

The matters expected to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting are described in detail in the following Notice of 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement.

We are using a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission rule that allows us to furnish our proxy materials over the internet. As a result, we are mailing to our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials instead of a paper copy of our 2018 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018 (the "Annual Report"), and the following Proxy Statement. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials contains instructions on how to access those documents over the internet. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials also contains instructions on how each stockholder can receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, including the following Notice of 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement, our Annual Report and a proxy card. We believe that this process will conserve natural resources and reduce the costs of printing and distributing our proxy materials.

It is important that you use this opportunity to take part in the affairs of the Company by voting on the business to come before the Annual Meeting. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE VOTE ELECTRONICALLY VIA THE INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE AS DESCRIBED ON THE NOTICE OF INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS AND UNDER "INTERNET AND TELEPHONE VOTING" IN THE PROXY STATEMENT, OR ALTERNATIVELY, IF RECEIVING PAPER COPIES OF PROXY MATERIALS, COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND PROMPTLY RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY CARD OR VOTING INSTRUCTION FORM BY MAIL USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE SO THAT YOUR SHARES MAY BE REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. Returning or completing the proxy card does not deprive you of your right to attend the Annual Meeting and to vote your shares in person.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ D. James Bidzos D. James Bidzos Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

VERISIGN, INC. 12061 Bluemont Way Reston, Virginia 20190

Notice of 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of VeriSign, Inc. (the "Company") will be held at the Company's corporate offices located at 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, Virginia 20190 on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time. The Annual Meeting is being held for the following purposes:

1. To elect the seven directors of the Company named in the Proxy Statement, each to serve until the next annual meeting, or until a successor has been elected and qualified or until the director's earlier resignation or removal. 2. To approve, on a non-binding, advisory basis, the Company's executive compensation.

3. To ratify the selection of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2019.

4. To vote on a stockholder proposal, if properly presented at the Annual Meeting, requesting that the Board adopt a policy that requires the Chair of the Board to be an independent member of the Board.

5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 28, 2019 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Thomas C. Indelicarto Secretary Reston, Virginia April 11, 2019 WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE VOTE ELECTRONICALLY VIA THE INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE AS DESCRIBED ON THE NOTICE OF INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS AND UNDER "INTERNET AND TELEPHONE VOTING" IN THE PROXY STATEMENT, OR ALTERNATIVELY, IF RECEIVING PAPER COPIES OF PROXY MATERIALS, COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND PROMPTLY RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY CARD OR VOTING INSTRUCTION FORM BY MAIL USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE SO THAT YOUR SHARES MAY BE REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held on May 23, 2019: The Proxy Statement and Annual Report are available at www.edocumentview.com/vrsn.

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VERISIGN, INC. 12061 Bluemont Way Reston, Virginia 20190

PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

April 11, 2019

The accompanying proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of VeriSign, Inc. ("we," "our," "us," "Verisign" or the "Company") for use at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") to be held at our corporate offices located at 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, Virginia 20190 on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time. Only holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on March 28, 2019, which is the record date, will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. This Proxy Statement and related proxy materials were first made available to stockholders on or about April 11, 2019. Our 2018 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018 (the "Annual Report"), is enclosed with this Proxy Statement for stockholders receiving a paper copy of proxy materials. The Annual Report and this Proxy Statement can both be accessed on the Investor Relations section of our website at https://investor.verisign.com, or at www.edocumentview.com/vrsn.

All proxies received will be voted in accordance with the instructions as submitted. Unless contrary instructions are specified, if the applicable proxy is submitted (and not revoked) prior to the Annual Meeting, the shares of Verisign common stock represented by the proxy will be voted: (1) FOR the election of each of the seven director candidates nominated by the Board (Proposal No. 1); (2) FOR the non-binding, advisory resolution to approve Verisign's executive compensation (Proposal No. 2); (3) FOR the ratification of the selection of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2019 (Proposal No. 3); (4) AGAINST the stockholder proposal, if properly presented at the Annual Meeting, requesting that the Board adopt a policy that requires the Chair of the Board to be an independent member of the Board (Proposal No. 4); and (5) in accordance with the best judgment of the named proxies on any other matters properly brought before the Annual Meeting. Voting Rights

At the close of business on the record date, we had 119,408,403 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held as of the record date. Quorum, Effect of Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes, Vote Required to Approve the Proposals

A majority of the shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote must be present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting in order to have a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated as shares present for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a bank, broker or other stockholder of record holding shares for a beneficial owner has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner and does not vote on a particular proposal because that record holder does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that "non-routine" proposal. Each of the election of directors (Proposal No. 1), the non-binding, advisory vote to approve executive compensation (Proposal No. 2), and the stockholder proposal, if properly presented at the Annual Meeting, requesting that the Board adopt a policy that requires the Chair of the Board to be an independent member of the Board (Proposal No. 4) is a "non-routine" proposal and so shares for which record holders do not receive voting instructions will not be voted on such matters. The ratification of the selection of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2019 (Proposal No. 3) is a "routine" proposal and so shares for which record holders.

If a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting, to be elected, a nominee for director must receive a majority of the votes cast (the number of shares voted "for" that nominee must exceed the number of votes cast "against" that nominee). Under this voting standard, abstentions and broker non-votes will not affect the voting outcome. Stockholders may not

cumulate votes in the election of directors.

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If a nominee who currently serves as a director is not re-elected, Delaware law provides that the director would continue to serve on the Board as a "holdover director." Under our Corporate Governance Principles, each director that is not re-elected by the stockholders must tender his or her resignation to the Board. In that situation, our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee would make a recommendation to the Board about whether to accept or reject the resignation, or whether to take other action. Within 90 days from the date that the election results are certified, the Board will act on the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee's recommendation and publicly disclose its decision and the rationale for that decision.

If a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting, approval of the proposals for:

(he non-binding, advisory resolution to approve Verisign's executive compensation (Proposal No. 2);

the ratification of the selection of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2019 (Proposal No. 3); and

the stockholder proposal, if properly presented at the Annual Meeting, requesting that the Board adopt a policy that requires the Chair of the Board to be an independent member of the Board (Proposal No. 4)

requires, in each case, the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of our common stock present or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter. Under this voting standard, abstentions will have the effect of votes cast against the proposal, and broker non-votes will not affect the voting outcome.

The inspector of elections appointed for the Annual Meeting will separately tabulate for and against votes, abstentions and broker non-votes.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting

In the event that a quorum shall fail to attend the Annual Meeting, either in person or represented by proxy, the Chairman may adjourn the Annual Meeting, or alternatively, the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock entitled to vote who are present in person or by represented by proxy may adjourn the Annual Meeting. Any such adjournment proposed by a stockholder or person named as a proxy would require the affirmative vote of the majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting.

Expenses of Soliciting Proxies

Verisign will pay the expenses of soliciting proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting. Verisign intends to retain Morrow Sodali LLC for various services related to the solicitation of proxies, which we anticipate will cost approximately \$32,500, plus reimbursement of expenses. Following the original mailing of the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and paper copies of proxy materials, we and/or our agents may also solicit proxies by mail, telephone, electronic transmission, including email, or in person. Following the original mailing of the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and paper copies of the proxy materials, we will request that brokers, custodians, nominees and other record holders of our shares forward copies of the proxy materials to persons for whom they hold shares and request authority for the exercise of proxies. In such cases, we will reimburse the record holders for their reasonable expenses if they ask us to do so.

Revocability of Proxies

A stockholder who holds shares of record as a registered stockholder may revoke any proxy that is not irrevocable by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person or by delivering a proxy in accordance with applicable law bearing a later date to the Secretary of the Company. If your shares are held through a bank or brokerage firm, you must follow the instructions provided by that institution to change or revoke your voting instructions. Internet and Telephone Voting

If you hold shares of record as a registered stockholder, you can simplify your voting process and save the Company expense by voting your shares by telephone at 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) or on the internet at

www.envisionreports.com/VRSN 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Telephone and internet voting are available through 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the day of the Annual Meeting. More information regarding internet voting is given on the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. If you hold shares through a bank or brokerage firm, the bank or brokerage firm will provide you with separate instructions on a form you will receive from them. Many such firms make telephone or internet voting available, but the specific processes available will depend on those firms' individual arrangements.

Householding

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A number of brokerage firms have instituted a procedure called "householding," which has been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Under this procedure, the firm delivers only one copy of the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or paper copies of the Annual Report and this Proxy Statement, as the case may be, to multiple stockholders who share the same address and have the same last name, unless it has received contrary instructions from an affected stockholder. If your shares are held in "street name" and you would like to receive only one copy of these materials (instead of separate copies) in the future, please contact your bank, broker or other holder of record to request information about householding. If you would like to receive an individual copy of the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or paper copies of the Annual Report and this Proxy Statement, as the case may be, now or in the future, we will promptly deliver these materials to you upon request to VeriSign, Inc., 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, Virginia 20190, Attention: Secretary or (703) 948-3200.

PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There are currently seven directors. The terms of the current directors, who are identified below, expire upon the election and qualification of the directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Board has nominated D. James Bidzos, Kathleen A. Cote, Thomas F. Frist III, Jamie S. Gorelick, Roger H. Moore, Louis A. Simpson and Timothy Tomlinson, each of whom is a current director, for election at the Annual Meeting to serve until our 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. Proxies cannot be voted for more than seven persons, which is the number of nominees.

Unless otherwise directed, the persons named as proxies on the proxy card intend to vote all proxies FOR the election of the nominees, as listed below, each of whom has consented to serve as a director if elected. In addition, if a proxy card is properly executed and returned but no direction is made, the persons named as proxies on the proxy card intend to vote all proxies FOR the election of the nominees listed below. If, at the time of the Annual Meeting, any of the nominees is unable or declines to serve as a director, the discretionary authority provided in the enclosed proxy will be exercised to vote for a substitute candidate designated by the Board, unless the Board chooses to reduce its own size. The Board has no reason to believe any of the nominees will be unable or will decline to serve if elected. Director Nominees

Set forth below is certain information relating to our director nominees, including details on each director nominee's specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that the person should be nominated for election as a director for another term.

Name Position Nominees for election as directors for a term expiring at the 2020 annual meeting: D. J64 hesChairman of the Board, Executive Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer **Bidzos** Kathleen A.O. Director Cote(1)(2)Thomas F 51 Director III(2)(3)Janie Directorlick(2)(3) Roger H.7 Director Moore(1)(2)Louis A&2 Lead Independent Director Simpson(2)(3)

Timothy 69 Director Tomlinson(1)(2)(3)

(1) Member of the Audit Committee.

(2) Member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

(3) Member of the Compensation Committee.

D. James Bidzos has served as Executive Chairman since August 2009 and President and Chief Executive Officer since August 2011. He served as Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on an interim basis from June 2008 to August 2009 and served as President from June 2008 to January 2009. He served as Chairman of the Board since August 2007 and from April 1995 to December 2001. He served as Vice Chairman of the Board from December 2001 to August 2007. Mr. Bidzos served as a director of VeriSign Japan K.K. ("Verisign Japan") from March 2008 to August 2010 and served as Representative Director of VeriSign Japan from March 2008 to September 2008. Mr. Bidzos served as Vice Chairman of RSA Security Inc., an internet identity and access management solution provider, from March 1999 to May 2002, and Executive Vice President from July 1996 to February 1999. Prior thereto, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of RSA Data Security, Inc. from 1986 to February 1999.

Mr. Bidzos is a business executive with significant expertise in the technology that is central to the Company's business. Mr. Bidzos is an internet and security industry pioneer who understands the strategic technology trends in markets that are important to the Company. Mr. Bidzos was a founder of the Company and has been either Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Company's Board since the Company's founding in April 1995, providing him with valuable insight and institutional knowledge of the Company's history and development. Mr. Bidzos has prior experience on our Compensation Committee and our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and as a member of several other public-company boards. Mr. Bidzos' years of board-level experience contribute important knowledge and insight to the Board. Additionally, Mr. Bidzos' executive-level experience includes many years as a Chief Executive Officer, providing him with a perspective that the Board values. Mr. Bidzos also has international business experience from his service as a director of Verisign Japan.

Kathleen A. Cote has served as a director since February 2008. From May 2001 to June 2003, Ms. Cote served as Chief Executive Officer of Worldport Communications, Inc., a provider of internet managed services. From September 1998 to May 2001, she served as Founder and President of Seagrass Partners, a consulting firm specializing in providing strategic planning, business,

operational and management support for startup and mid-sized technology companies. From November 1996 to January 1998, she served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Computervision Corporation, a supplier of desktop and enterprise, client server and web-based product development and data management software and services. Ms. Cote is currently a director of Western Digital Corporation and, within the past five years, served as a director of GT Advanced Technologies Inc. Ms. Cote holds an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Massachusetts, an M.B.A. degree from Babson College, and a B.A. degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Ms. Cote is a business executive with significant expertise overseeing global companies in technology and operations in the areas of systems integration, networks, hardware and software, including web-based applications and internet services. Ms. Cote's expertise in technology and operations is directly relevant to the Company's businesses. Ms. Cote's expertise as a business executive also includes sales and marketing, product development, strategic planning and international experience, which contributes important expertise to the Board in those areas of business administration. Ms. Cote's financial and accounting skills qualify her as an audit committee financial expert. In addition to Ms. Cote's tenure as a director of the Company, Ms. Cote has served on several other boards of directors, including service on the audit and corporate governance committees of those boards, providing her with valuable board-level experience. Ms. Cote's executive-level experience includes experience as a Chief Executive Officer, providing her with a perspective that the Board values.

Thomas F. Frist III has served as a director since December 2015. Mr. Frist is the Founder and Managing Principal of Frist Capital, LLC, an investment firm based in Nashville, Tennessee he founded in 2002 that makes long-term equity investments in public and private companies. Prior to that he was the managing member of FS Partners II, LLC and he worked in principal investments at Rainwater, Inc. from 1992 to 1995. Mr. Frist holds a B.A. degree from Princeton University and an M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School.

Mr. Frist's significant directorship experience provides valuable expertise and perspective to the Board. Since 2008, he has served on the Board of Directors of HCA Holdings, Inc. (now known as HCA Healthcare, Inc.) and serves as chair of its Finance and Investments Committee. Mr. Frist also served as a director for Science Applications International Corporation from 2013 to 2017. In addition to the significant experience as a board member, Mr. Frist provides valuable experience in areas of business administration, finance and operations, which the Board values. Jamie S. Gorelick has served as a director since January 2015. Ms. Gorelick has been a partner at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, an international law firm, since 2003. She served as Deputy Attorney General of the United States from 1994 to 1997 and as General Counsel of the Department of Defense from 1993 to 1994. She has been a director of Amazon.com, Inc. since 2012 and serves as Chair of its Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. She previously served as a director of United Technologies Corporation and of Schlumberger Limited. She holds B.A. and J.D. degrees from Harvard University.

Ms. Gorelick is an experienced attorney with significant expertise in legal, policy and corporate matters. Ms. Gorelick's regulatory and policy experience is directly relevant to the Company's business. She is well-versed in critical infrastructure and national security issues and brings a valuable skill-set and wealth of government experience to the Board. Ms. Gorelick has served on several other corporate boards, a compensation committee and a nominating and corporate governance committee, and served on numerous government boards and commissions. Ms. Gorelick's experience in both the public and private sectors, combined with her experience in the corporate boardroom, provides her valuable board experience, and she offers a perspective the Board values.

Roger H. Moore has served as a director since February 2002. From December 2007 to May 2009, he served as a consultant assisting Verisign in the divestiture of its Communications Services business. From June 2007 through November 2007, Mr. Moore served as interim Chief Executive Officer and President of Arbinet-thexchange, Inc., a provider of online trading services. He was President and Chief Executive Officer of Illuminet Holdings, Inc. from December 1995 until December 2001 when it was acquired by Verisign. Mr. Moore is currently a director of Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. and, within the past five years, served as a director of Western Digital Corporation. Mr. Moore holds a B.S. degree in General Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Mr. Moore is a business executive with significant expertise in general management, sales, technology and strategic planning in the telecommunications industry. Mr. Moore's expertise contributes operational knowledge of important

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inputs to the Company's businesses and provides valuable experience in areas of business administration. Mr. Moore also has significant experience, both as a senior executive and as a board member, in joint venture and mergers and acquisition transactions, which is experience that is valuable to the Board. Mr. Moore's financial and accounting skills qualify him as an audit committee financial expert. Mr. Moore also serves on several other boards of directors, including service on the audit, compensation and corporate governance committees of certain of those boards, providing him with valuable board-level experience. In addition to the several years of business management experience mentioned above, Mr. Moore has international business experience from his time as President of Nortel Japan and as President of AT&T Canada.

Louis A. Simpson has served as a director since May 2005. Mr. Simpson has served as Chairman of SQ Advisors, LLC, an investment firm since January 2011. From May 1993 to December 2010, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer, Capital Operations, of GEICO Corporation, a passenger auto insurer. Mr. Simpson previously served as Vice Chairman of the Board of

GEICO from 1985 to 1993. Mr. Simpson holds a B.A. degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and an M.A. degree in Economics from Princeton University.

Mr. Simpson is a business executive with significant expertise in insurance, finance and private investment. Mr. Simpson's expertise contributes all around business acumen, skills in strategic planning and finance, along with knowledge important to mergers and acquisitions activity. Throughout his career, Mr. Simpson has served on the boards of directors of more than fifteen publicly traded companies, providing him with extensive and valuable board-level experience. Mr. Simpson's board-level experience also includes previous audit committee, finance committee, nominating and corporate governance committee and compensation committee experience on certain of those public-company boards. Mr. Simpson is a recognized expert in corporate governance matters, having lectured and presented numerous times on corporate governance topics at seminars and continuing education courses. As indicated above, Mr. Simpson's career includes executive-level experience as a Chief Executive Officer, providing him with a perspective that the Board values.

Timothy Tomlinson is a long-tenured member of the Board, having served from the Company's founding in 1995 until 2002, and again since his reappointment in November 2007. From May 2011 through December 2013, Mr. Tomlinson was a corporate lawyer employed as General Counsel of Portola Minerals Company, a producer and seller of limestone products. From May 2007 through May 2011, Mr. Tomlinson was employed as Of Counsel by the law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Mr. Tomlinson was the founder and a named partner of Tomlinson Zisko LLP and practiced with this Silicon Valley law firm from 1983 until its acquisition by Greenberg Traurig, LLP in May 2007. He served as managing partner of Tomlinson Zisko LLP for multiple terms. Mr. Tomlinson holds a B.A. degree in Economics, a Ph.D. degree in History, an M.B.A. and a J.D. degree from Stanford University.

Mr. Tomlinson has significant expertise in corporate matters including finance and mergers and acquisitions and has represented clients in the technology industry for more than thirty years. Mr.