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CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

Form 4

December 05, 2008

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

Estimated average

burden hours per

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

Check this box

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

response... 0.5

OMB APPROVAL

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading LIU TING Y Issuer Symbol CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP (Check all applicable) [CATY] X_ Director (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction 10% Owner Other (specify Officer (give title (Month/Day/Year) below) 777 NORTH BROADWAY 12/03/2008 (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(State)

(Zip)

(City)

| (City) | (State) (2 | Table | e I - Non-Do | erivative S | Securi | ties Ac | quired, Disposed | of, or Beneficia | lly Owned |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------|---|------------------------|---------------|----------|--|--|---|
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | Disposed (Instr. 3, | (A) or (A) or |)) 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| Common Stock | | | Code V | Amount | (D) | FIICE | 5,644 | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/03/2008 | | S | 1,000 | D | \$ 20 | 378,664 | I | By Family Trust |
| Common Stock | 12/05/2008 | | S | 2,000 | D | \$ 20 | 376,664 | I | By Family Trust |

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

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Person

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number.

(In

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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | 5. orNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | | 7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Option | \$ 11.0595 | | | | | 01/01/2001(1) | 12/31/2009 | Common Stock | 5,120 |
| Stock Option | \$ 21.0935 | | | | | 01/01/2002(1) | 12/31/2010 | Common Stock | 5,120 |
| Stock Option | \$ 17.285 | | | | | 01/01/2003(1) | 12/31/2011 | Common Stock | 5,120 |
| Stock Option | \$ 11.3435 | | | | | 01/01/2004(1) | 12/31/2012 | Common Stock | 5,120 |
| Stock Option | \$ 37 | | | | | 02/17/2006(2) | 02/17/2015 | Common Stock | 3,500 |
| Stock Option | \$ 36.24 | | | | | 01/25/2007(3) | 01/25/2016 | Common Stock | 3,500 |
| Stock Option | \$ 23.37 | | | | | 02/21/2009(4) | 02/21/2018 | Common Stock | 3,500 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|
| • | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | |
| LIU TING Y 777 NORTH BROADWAY LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 | X | | | | | |

Signatures

| Ting Y. Liu | 12/05/2008 | | |
|------------------|------------|--|--|
| **Signature of | Date | | |
| Reporting Person | | | |

Reporting Owners 2

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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) The option is fully exercisable.
- (2) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 02/17/06.
- (3) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 01/25/07.
- (4) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 02/21/09.

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.