

WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION

Form 8-K

December 29, 2009

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 23, 2009  
WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

<b>Nevada</b> (State or other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	<b>001-32550</b> (Commission File Number)	<b>88-0365922</b> (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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<b>2700 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada</b> (Address of Principal Executive Offices)	<b>89102</b> (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(702) 248-4200**

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

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

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 8.01. Other Events.

SIGNATURES

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**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On December 23, 2009, Western Alliance Bancorporation (the Company ) and Miller/Russell & Associates, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company ( Miller/Russell ) that provides investment advisory and wealth management services, entered into an agreement and plan of merger with Miller/Russell Management LLC ( Management ) and Miller/Russell Acquisition LLC pursuant to which the Company has agreed to sell a 75% interest in Miller/Russell to certain members of the Miller/Russell management team in exchange for approximately \$2.7 million. The purchase price includes \$600,000 in cash and proceeds from a \$2.1 million secured term loan extended by Alliance Bank of Arizona, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, to Management. Closing, which is subject to customary conditions, is expected to occur on or before December 31, 2009.

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**SIGNATURES**

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

**WESTERN ALLIANCE  
BANCORPORATION**  
(Registrant)

Date: December 29, 2009

By: /s/ Dale Gibbons  
Dale Gibbons  
Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer