DELUXE CORP Form DEF 14A March 10, 2011

# **UNITED STATES**

Filed by the Registrant b

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

# **SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Check the	e appropriate box:		
o		Preliminary Proxy Statement	
0	Confidential,	for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))	
þ		Definitive Proxy Statement Definitive Additional Materials	
0 0		Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12	
		Deluxe Corporation	
		(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)	
	(Name	of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)	
Payment	of Filing Fee (Check	he appropriate box):	
þ o	Fee comp	No fee required.  Ited on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.	
	(1)	Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:	
	(2)	Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:	
	_	rlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth th fee is calculated and state how it was determined):	
	(4)	Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:	
		(5) Total fee paid:	

0	Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.		
which the	• •	provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for y. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the	
	(1)	Amount Previously Paid:	
	(2)	Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:	
	(3)	Filing Party:	
	(4)	Date Filed:	

Deluxe Corporation 3680 Victoria Street N. Shoreview, MN 55126-2966 P.O. Box 64235 St. Paul, MN 55164-0235 www.deluxe.com

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD APRIL 27, 2011

To the Shareholders of Deluxe Corporation:

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Deluxe Corporation 2011 annual meeting of shareholders. The annual meeting will be held at Deluxe's headquarters located at 3680 Victoria Street North, Shoreview, Minnesota on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. Central Time for the following purposes:

- 1. To elect nine directors to hold office until the 2012 annual meeting of shareholders.
- 2. To cast an advisory (non-binding) vote on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers (a "Say-on-Pay" vote).
- 3. To cast an advisory (non-binding) vote on the frequency with which we should conduct future Say-on-Pay votes.
- 4. To consider and act upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2011.
- 5. To take action on any other business that may properly come before the meeting and any adjournment thereof.

Shareholders of record at the close of business on March 2, 2011, are entitled to vote at the meeting and at any adjournment thereof.

Once again, we are furnishing proxy materials to our shareholders over the Internet. This process expedites the delivery of proxy materials, reduces paper waste and saves the Company expense. In addition, these materials remain easily accessible, and shareholders receive clear instructions for voting and requesting paper copies of the materials if they so desire.

We are mailing the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials ("Internet Notice") to shareholders on or about March 15, 2011. The Internet Notice contains instructions on how to access our Proxy Statement and Annual Report, and how to vote online. In addition, the Internet Notice contains instructions on how to (i) request a paper copy of the Proxy Statement and Annual Report, if you received only an Internet Notice this year, or (ii) elect to receive your Proxy Statement and Annual Report only over the Internet, if you received them by mail this year.

It is important that your shares be represented at the annual meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person, please vote as soon as possible to ensure the presence of a quorum and save Deluxe further expense. You may vote your shares by telephone or Internet, or you may sign, date and mail the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided. Instructions regarding the methods of voting are contained in the Internet Notice and in the Proxy Statement. Voting by telephone, Internet or mail will not limit your right to vote in person or to attend the annual meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/s/ Anthony C. Scarfone Anthony C. Scarfone Corporate Secretary

March 10, 2011

[This page left blank intentionally.]

# **DELUXE CORPORATION**

3680 Victoria Street N., Shoreview, Minnesota 55126-2966

# Proxy Statement 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD APRIL 27, 2011

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING	
What is the purpose of the annual meeting?	3
How does the Board recommend that I vote?	3
Who is entitled to vote at the meeting?	3
How many shares must be present to hold the meeting?	3
What is the difference between a shareholder of record and a "street name" holder?	4
How do I vote my shares?	4
What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials?	4
Can I vote my shares in person at the meeting?	4
What vote is required to elect directors?	5
What vote is required on proposals other than the election of directors?	5
How are votes counted?	5
What if I do not specify how I want my shares voted?	5
What is the effect of not casting my vote?	$\epsilon$
Can I change my vote?	$\epsilon$
Who pays the cost of proxy preparation and solicitation?	$\epsilon$
STOCK OWNERSHIP AND REPORTING	
Director and Executive Officer Stock Ownership and Sale Guidelines	e
Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management	$\epsilon$
Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance	Ģ
ITEM 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS	ç
Nominees for Election	Ģ
DO ADD CERTICETURE AND COVERNANCE	
BOARD STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE	1.
Board Oversight and Director Independence	14
Corporate Governance Principles	14
Code of Ethics and Business Conduct	14
Related Party Transaction Policy and Procedures	15
Board Composition and Qualifications	15
<u>Director Selection Process</u>	16
Meetings and Committees of the Board of Directors	17
Audit Committee	18
Compensation Committee	18
Cornorate Governance Committee	10

# Table of Contents

Finance Committee	19
Communications with Directors	19
Board Leadership Structure; Non-Executive Chairman; Executive Sessions	19
Board Role in Risk Oversight	20
Audit Committee Expertise; Complaint-Handling Procedures	20
Compensation Committee Processes and Procedures	21
Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation	21
Non-Employee Director Compensation	21
Director Compensation Table for 2010	23
EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	
ITEM 2: ADVISORY VOTE ON COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (referred to	24
as "Say-on-Pay")	
ITEM 3: ADVISORY VOTE ON FREQUENCY OF SAY-ON-PAY VOTES	24
Compensation Discussion and Analysis	25
Compensation Committee Report	35
Executive Compensation Tables	36
Summary Compensation Table	37
2010 All Other Compensation Supplemental Table	39
Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2010	40
Outstanding Equity Awards at 2010 Fiscal Year-End	42
2010 Option Exercises and Stock Vested	43
<u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u>	43
Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table	44
Severance, Retention and Change of Control Arrangements	44
Severance Calculations Table	47
Change of Control Calculations Tables	48
FISCAL YEAR 2010 AUDIT AND INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	
Audit Committee Report	51
Fees Paid to Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	52
Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Accounting Firm Fees and Services	53
ITEM 4: RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC	53
ACCOUNTING FIRM	
2012 SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS	53
OTHER BUSINESS	54
ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS AND FORM 10-K	54

### **Table of Contents**

#### INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING

What is the purpose of the annual meeting?

At our annual meeting, shareholders will act on the matters disclosed in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders that preceded this proxy statement. The four proposals scheduled to be voted on at the meeting are to:

- Elect as directors the nine (9) nominees named in this proxy statement;
- Cast an advisory (non-binding) vote on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers ("Say-on-Pay"); and
  - Cast an advisory (non-binding) vote on the frequency of future Say-on-Pay votes; and
- Ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as Deluxe's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.

We will also consider any other business that may be properly presented at the meeting (although we are not expecting any other matters to be presented), and management will report on Deluxe's performance during the last fiscal year and respond to questions from shareholders.

The Board of Directors of Deluxe is asking you to vote on the proposed items of business.

How does the Board recommend that I vote?

The Board of Directors recommends a vote:

- FOR the election of all of the nominees for director;
- FOR the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this proxy statement;
- FOR holding Say-on-Pay votes EVERY YEAR (as opposed to every 2 years or every 3 years); and
- FOR the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as Deluxe's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.

Who is entitled to vote at the meeting?

The Board has set March 2, 2011, as the record date for the meeting. If you were a shareholder of record at the close of business on March 2, 2011, you are entitled to vote at the meeting. You have one vote for each share of common stock you held on the record date.

As of the record date, 51,473,035 shares of Deluxe common stock were outstanding. Deluxe does not have any other class of capital stock outstanding.

How many shares must be present to hold the meeting?

A quorum is necessary to hold the meeting and conduct business. The presence of shareholders who can direct the vote of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock as of the record date is considered a quorum. A shareholder is counted present at the meeting if:

- the shareholder is present and votes in person at the meeting; or
- the shareholder has properly submitted a proxy or voted by telephone or the Internet.

### **Table of Contents**

What is the difference between a shareholder of record and a "street name" holder?

If your shares are registered directly in your name, you are considered the shareholder of record with respect to those shares.

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, you are still considered the beneficial owner of the shares, but your shares are held in "street name".

How do I vote my shares?

We are mailing the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Internet Notice") to shareholders of record on or about March 15, 2011. You will not receive a printed copy of these proxy materials unless you request to receive these materials in hard copy by following the instructions provided in the Internet Notice. Instead, the Internet Notice will instruct you how you may access and review all of the important information contained in these proxy materials. The Internet Notice also instructs you how you may vote by the Internet. If you received an Internet Notice by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of these proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Internet Notice.

Voting by Internet – You can simplify your voting by voting your shares using the Internet as instructed in the Internet Notice. The Internet procedures are designed to authenticate your identity, to allow you to vote your shares and confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded. Internet voting facilities for shareholders of record are available 24 hours a day and will close at 11:59 p.m. (CT) on April 26, 2011. You may access this proxy statement and related materials by going to http://www.investoreconnect.com and entering the control number as shown on your Internet Notice. You will then be directed to select a link to www.proxyvote.com where you will be able to vote on the proposals presented here.

Voting by Mail – Shareholders who receive a paper proxy card may elect to vote by mail (instead of by Internet or telephone) and should complete, sign and date their proxy card and mail it in the pre-addressed envelope that accompanies the paper proxy card. Proxy cards submitted by mail must be received by the time of the annual meeting in order for your shares to be voted. Shareholders who hold shares beneficially in street name may vote by mail by requesting a paper proxy card according to the instructions contained in the Internet Notice received from your broker or other agent, and then completing, signing and dating the voting instructions card provided by the broker or other agent and mailing it in the pre-addressed envelope provided.

Voting by Telephone – Shareholders also may elect to vote over the telephone by calling 800-690-6903 (toll-free). The telephone voting procedures have been set up for your convenience. The procedures have been designed to verify your identity, to allow you to give voting instructions and to confirm that those instructions have been recorded properly.

What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials?

It means you hold shares registered in more than one account. To ensure that all of your shares are voted, if you vote by telephone or the Internet, vote once for each Internet Notice you receive. If you wish to consolidate your accounts, please contact our stock transfer agent, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., at P.O. Box 64854, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164 or by telephone at 800-468-9716 (toll-free).

You may also receive a "voting instructions" card which looks very similar to a proxy card. Voting instructions are prepared by brokers, banks or other nominees for shareholders who hold shares in street name.

Can I vote my shares in person at the meeting?

Yes. If you are a shareholder of record, you may vote your shares at the meeting by completing a ballot at the meeting. However, even if you currently plan to attend the meeting, we recommend that you submit your proxy ahead of time so that your vote will be counted if, for whatever reason, you later decide not to attend the meeting, or are otherwise unable to attend.

### **Table of Contents**

If you hold your shares in street name, you may vote your shares in person at the meeting only if you obtain a signed proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee giving you the right to vote such shares at the meeting.

What vote is required to elect directors?

In accordance with Minnesota law, directors are elected by a plurality of votes cast. This means that the nine nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, provided that a quorum is present at the meeting.

What vote is required on proposals other than the election of directors?

With respect to Items 2 (Say-on-Pay) and 4 (ratification of independent accounting firm) the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote with respect to that item is required for the approval of the item (provided that the total number of shares voted in favor of the proposal constitutes more than 25 percent of the outstanding shares). With respect to Item 3 (frequency of Say-on-Pay votes) the vote option receiving the highest number of votes (a plurality) will be considered the advisory preference of our shareholders. Items 2 (Say-on-Pay) and 3 (frequency of Say-on-Pay votes) are nonbinding advisory votes intended to solicit the input of our shareholders on these matters.

How are votes counted?

For Item 1 shareholders may either vote "FOR" or "WITHHOLD" authority to vote for the nominees for the Board of Directors. For Items 2 and 4 shareholders may vote "FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN." For Item 3 shareholders may vote "1 YEAR", "2 YEARS", "3 YEARS" or "ABSTAIN."

If you vote WITHHOLD or ABSTAIN, your shares will be counted as present at the meeting for the purposes of determining a quorum.

If you WITHHOLD authority to vote for one or more of the directors, this has the same effect as a vote against the director or directors. If you ABSTAIN from voting on a proposal, your abstention has the same effect as a vote against the proposal.

What if I do not specify how I want my shares voted?

If you hold your shares through a brokerage account, bank or other nominee, and do not provide voting instructions to your broker, bank or nominee, your shares will be counted as present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum but, in accordance with applicable law and the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, may not be voted on Item 1: Election of Directors, Item 2: Advisory Vote on Compensation of Named Executive Officers or Item 3: Advisory Vote on Frequency of Say-on-Pay Vote. Shares for which you do not provide voting instructions may, however, be voted on Item 4: Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, at the discretion of your broker, bank or nominee.

If you vote your shares directly (as opposed to voting through a broker or other intermediary) and do not specify on your proxy card (or when giving your proxy by telephone or the Internet) how you want to vote your shares, we will vote them:

- FOR the election of all of the nominees for director;
- FOR the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers;

- FOR holding Say-on-Pay votes EVERY YEAR (as opposed to every 2 years or every 3 years); and
- •FOR the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as Deluxe's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.

### **Table of Contents**

What is the effect of not casting my vote?

If you hold your shares in a brokerage or other financial institution account (i.e., in street name), it is critical that you cast your vote if you want it to count in the election of directors (Item 1 of this proxy statement) and the advisory votes related to executive compensation (Items 2 and 3 of this proxy statement). If you hold your shares in street name and you do not instruct your bank or broker how to vote in the election of directors and the advisory votes related to executive compensation, no votes will be cast on your behalf. Your bank or broker will, however, continue to have discretion to vote any uninstructed shares on the ratification of the appointment of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm (Item 4 of this proxy statement).

### Can I change my vote?

Yes. You can change your vote and revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the meeting in any of the following ways:

- by sending a written notice of revocation to Deluxe's Corporate Secretary;
- by submitting another properly signed proxy card at a later date to the Corporate Secretary;
  - by submitting another proxy by telephone or the Internet at a later date; or
    - by voting in person at the meeting.

Who pays the cost of proxy preparation and solicitation?

Deluxe pays for the cost of proxy preparation and solicitation, including the charges and expenses of brokerage firms or other nominees for forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners. We have retained Georgeson Inc., a proxy solicitation firm, to assist in the solicitation of proxies for a fee of approximately \$8,000, plus associated costs and expenses.

We are soliciting proxies primarily by use of the Internet. In addition, proxies may be solicited by mail, telephone or facsimile, or personally by directors, officers and regular employees of Deluxe. These individuals receive no additional compensation for these services.

### STOCK OWNERSHIP AND REPORTING

Director and Executive Officer Stock Ownership and Sale Guidelines

The Board has established stock ownership guidelines for directors and executive officers. These guidelines set ownership targets for each director and executive officer, with the expectation that the target be achieved within five years of the later of the date the ownership guidelines were implemented or the individual first became a director or executive officer, whichever is applicable. The Board also maintains guidelines restricting a director's or executive officer's ability to sell shares received upon the exercise of options or vesting of other stock-based awards until they have achieved their ownership targets. The ownership target for non-employee directors is shares having a value of at least five times the current Board retainer. Executive officers have targets based on a multiple of their annual base salary. The ownership target for the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") is five times his annual base salary, the target for the Company's Senior Vice Presidents is two times their annual base salary, and the target for the Company's Vice Presidents who are members of the Company's executive leadership team ("Executive Leadership Team") is

one-and-one-half times their annual base salary.

Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The following table shows, as of March 2, 2011 (unless otherwise noted), the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by (1) each person who is known by Deluxe to beneficially own more than five percent of Deluxe's outstanding common stock, (2) each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table that appears in the "EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION" section of this proxy statement (each, a "Named Executive Officer"), (3) each director and nominee for director, and (4) all of the current directors and executive officers of Deluxe as a group. Except as otherwise indicated in the footnotes below, the shareholders listed in the table have sole voting and investment powers with respect to the common stock owned by them.

# Table of Contents

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class
Blackrock, Inc.1 40 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10022	5,612,709	10.94
FMR LLC (Fidelity)2 82 Devonshire Street Boston, MA 02109	3,200,800	6.24
The Vanguard Group, Inc. 3 100 Vanguard Blvd. Malvern, PA 19355	2,822,908	5.50
Lee J. Schram4	770,549	1.48
Anthony C. Scarfone5	201,922	*
Terry D. Peterson6	66,099	*
Thomas L. Morefield7	61,025	*
Malcolm J. McRoberts8	43,818	*
Ronald C. Baldwin9	21,309	*
Charles A. Haggerty10	60,249	*
Isaiah Harris, Jr.11	29,961	*
Don J. McGrath12	30,598	*
Cheryl E. Mayberry McKissack13	25,129	*
Neil J. Metviner14	15,039	*
Stephen P. Nachtsheim15	54,769	*
Mary Ann O'Dwyer16	42,964	*
Martyn R. Redgrave17	40,978	*
All directors, nominees and executive officers as a group (18 persons)18	1,657,545	3.16

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 1 percent.

### **Table of Contents**

- 1 Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 10, 2011, reporting beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2010.
- 2Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 14, 2011, reporting beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2010. The power to vote or direct the vote of these shares generally resides within funds managed or advised by the reporting person and/or its subsidiaries.
- 3Based on a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 10, 2011 reporting beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2010. The power to vote or direct the vote of these shares generally resides within funds managed or advised by the reporting person and/or its subsidiaries.
- 4 Includes 592,233 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days.
- 5 Includes 144,168 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, and 14,550 shares of restricted stock.
- 6Includes 51,108 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days.
- 7 Includes 52,864 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, and 1,400 shares of restricted stock.
- 8 Includes 29,643 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, and 3,818 shares of restricted stock.
- 9 Includes 3,731 shares of restricted stock.
- 10Includes 2,000 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, 3,731 restricted stock units received in lieu of the annual director restricted stock grant, 32,727 shares held by the Haggerty Family Trust, and 10,184 restricted stock units received in lieu of director's fees pursuant to the deferral option under the Deluxe Corporation Non-Employee Director Stock and Deferral Plan (the "Director Plan").
- 11 Includes 1,000 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, 3,731 shares of restricted stock, and 4,900 restricted stock units received in lieu of director's fees pursuant to the deferral option under the Director Plan.
- 12 Includes 3,731 shares of restricted stock, 2,000 shares held in trust and 13,559 restricted stock units received in lieu of director's fees pursuant to the deferral option under the Director Plan.
- 13 Includes 2,000 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, and 3,731 shares of restricted stock.
- 14 Includes 3,731 shares of restricted stock.
- 15 Includes 2,000 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, 3,731 restricted stock units received in lieu of the annual director restricted stock grant, 3,582 shares held by the Nachtsheim Family Trust, 11,000 shares held in Grantor Retained Annuity Trust and 9,966

restricted stock units received in lieu of director's fees pursuant to the deferral option under the Director Plan.

- 16Includes 2,000 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, 3,731 restricted stock units received in lieu of the annual director restricted stock grant, and 11,636 restricted stock units received in lieu of director's fees pursuant to the deferral option under the Director Plan.
- 17 Includes 2,000 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, 3,731 shares of restricted stock, and 9,360 restricted stock units received in lieu of director's fees pursuant to the deferral option under the Director Plan.
- 18 Includes 1,049,424 shares receivable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable within 60 days, 44,779 shares of restricted stock, 11,193 restricted stock units received in lieu of the annual director restricted stock grants, and 59,605 restricted stock units received in lieu of directors' fees pursuant to the deferral option under the Director Plan.

### **Table of Contents**

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and related regulations, require Deluxe's directors and executive officers, and any persons holding more than ten percent of Deluxe's common stock (collectively, "Reporting Persons"), to report their initial ownership of Deluxe securities and any subsequent changes in that ownership to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Based on our review of the reports filed and written representations submitted by the Reporting Persons, we believe that all Reporting Persons timely filed all required Section 16(a) reports for the most recent fiscal year.

#### ITEM 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

#### Nominees for Election

There are currently ten individuals serving on the Board of Directors. All, except Isaiah Harris, Jr., are being nominated by the Governance Committee to stand for re-election. The Governance Committee, in consultation with Mr. Harris, has determined that it is in the interests of the Company not to have Mr. Harris stand for re-election due to the demands of his other business commitments. The Board and management wish to express their appreciation to Mr. Harris for his many years of thoughtful and valued service on the Board and its committees.

The Board has determined that the size of the Board will be nine directors as of the date of the annual meeting and recommends that the nine individuals presented on the following pages be elected to serve on the Board until the 2012 annual meeting of shareholders. All of the nominees are current directors. In addition, with the exception of Mr. Schram, who serves as Deluxe's CEO and therefore cannot be deemed independent, all nominees have been determined by the Board to meet the independence standards of the New York Stock Exchange (see the discussion of Director Independence in the "BOARD STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE" section of this proxy statement).

Each of the nine individuals listed below has consented to being named as a nominee in this proxy statement and has indicated a willingness to serve if elected. However, if any nominee becomes unable to serve before the election, the shares represented by proxies may be voted for a substitute designated by the Board, unless a contrary instruction is indicated on the proxy.

RONALD C. BALDWIN Director since June 2007

Age 64

Vice Chairman (Retired), Huntington Bancshares Inc.

Mr. Baldwin served as Vice Chairman of Huntington Bancshares Inc., a regional bank holding company, from April 2001 until his retirement in December 2006. Mr. Baldwin was responsible for overseeing Huntington's regional banking line of business, which provided both commercial and retail financial products and services through nearly 400 regional banking offices. Mr. Baldwin is a 35-year veteran of the banking and financial services industry. As such, he is able to provide Deluxe with unique insight into the challenges faced by financial institutions, particularly within the community bank sector, where the Company believes it has the opportunity to expand the business services and solutions offered to these financial institutions. The experience acquired by Mr. Baldwin throughout his career also makes him adept in offering counsel on matters related to financial and capital structure, all of which serve the needs of Deluxe and its shareholders as the Company seeks to

maintain financial discipline while pursuing growth opportunities.

### **Table of Contents**

CHARLES A. HAGGERTY Director since December 2000 Age 69

Chairman (Retired), Western Digital Corporation

Mr. Haggerty was Chairman of the Board of Western Digital Corporation, a manufacturer of hard disk drives, from July 1993 until his retirement in June 2000. Mr. Haggerty was also Chief Executive Officer of Western Digital from July 1993 to January 2000, and was President from June 1992 to July 1993. Prior to joining Western Digital, Mr. Haggerty spent more than 28 years with IBM. Mr. Haggerty also serves as a director of Beckman Coulter, Inc., Pentair, Inc., Imation Corp and LSI Corporation. Aside from Mr. Haggerty's strong background in business operations and management, he is a seasoned public company director, having served for more than a decade on public company boards. During his tenure as a public company director, he has chaired a range of board committees, including the audit committees of the boards of Imation Corp and Pentair, Inc. and has served as a lead independent director, all of which allows him to bring a broad-based set of corporate governance perspectives and experience to the Deluxe Board.

DON J. McGRATH
Director since June 2007

Age 62

Managing Partner, Diamond Bear Partners, LLC

Diamond Bear Partners, LLC is an investment company co-founded by Mr. McGrath in December 2009. At the end of 2009, Mr. McGrath retired as Chairman of BancWest Corporation, a \$70 billion bank holding company serving nearly four million households and businesses. Mr. McGrath served as BancWest's Chairman and CEO from January 2005 through December 2009, and as a director since 1998. Prior to becoming CEO, he served as BancWest's President and Chief Operating Officer from November 1998 to December 2004. From May 2005 through December 2009, Mr. McGrath also served as Chairman of the Board of Bank of the West, a subsidiary of BancWest, and as CEO from 1996 to 2007. In 2008, he received a Presidential appointment to the President's Council on Financial Literacy. He has nearly 40 years of experience in the banking and financial services industry, particularly within the large bank sector, enabling him to provide the Company with valuable insight into this important portion of Deluxe's customer base. He also led BancWest through an era of significant growth and therefore is well-suited for the Deluxe Board as the Company continues to execute its transformational growth strategies.

### **Table of Contents**

# CHERYL E. MAYBERRY McKISSACK Director since December 2000

Age 55

President and Chief Executive Officer, Nia Enterprises, LLC

Nia Enterprises, LLC is an on-line research and marketing services company specializing in women and ethnic markets, which Ms. Mayberry McKissack founded in 2000. From November 1997 to November 2000, Ms. Mayberry McKissack served as Senior Vice President and General Manager of worldwide sales and marketing for Open Port Technology, Inc., a provider of Internet infrastructure messaging solutions. In 2005, she was named an Associate Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Kellogg School of Business, Northwestern University. Ms. Mayberry McKissack also serves as a director of Private Bancorp, Inc. As a successful entrepreneur, Ms. Mayberry McKissack brings a unique perspective to the Board as the Company pursues its growth strategies within the Small Business Services segment. In addition, given that a key component of Deluxe's strategy for growing this segment involves Internet-based marketing and e-commerce solutions, Ms. Mayberry McKissack's experience in these areas is a valuable complement to the skills and experience she brings to the Board as a small business owner and operator.

NEIL J. METVINER
Director since June 2007

Age 52

Chief Marketing Officer, Output Services Group, Inc.

Mr. Metviner joined Output Services Group, Inc. ("OSG") in January of 2011. OSG provides invoice and statement printing and presentment services, emphasizing their use as marketing tools. Mr. Metviner is responsible for all marketing activities, organic growth initiatives and major account management. Prior to joining OSG, Mr. Metviner served in various executive capacities with Pitney Bowes, Inc., a global mailstream technology company serving one million businesses in North America and over two million customers worldwide. Mr. Metviner joined Pitney Bowes in 2000 as President of Pitney Bowes Direct, having management responsibility for serving the company's U.S. small business customer base, together with various international markets. From September 2007 until leaving the company at the end of December 2009, Mr. Metviner assumed full oversight responsibility for the company's European mailstream operations. As President of Pitney Bowes Direct, Mr. Metviner acquired extensive knowledge in marketing to, and otherwise serving, small business customers. This knowledge is particularly relevant to Deluxe's strategic growth initiatives within the Small Business Services segment, from where it is expected that a significant portion of the Company's growth will be derived. In addition, Mr. Metviner has spent more than 20 years in senior leadership positions responsible for new product development, management and marketing, all of which areas also are key components of Deluxe's enterprise-wide growth strategies.

### **Table of Contents**

STEPHEN P. NACHTSHEIM Director since November 1995

Age 66

Non-Executive Chairman of Deluxe and Vice President (Retired), Intel Corporation

In November 2005, Mr. Nachtsheim was appointed Non-Executive Chairman of the Board of Deluxe. Prior to that, he served as the Board's Lead Independent Director, a role he had assumed in December 2003. Mr. Nachtsheim was a Corporate Vice President of Intel Corporation, a designer and manufacturer of integrated circuits, microprocessors and other electronic components, and the co-director of Intel Capital from 1998 until his retirement in August 2001. He also serves as a director of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District in California, a public service position to which he was elected in 2009. Mr. Nachtsheim's experience in the information technology area and in overseeing investments in product development initiatives is well-suited to Deluxe's own transformational initiatives, many of which rely on the support of information technology. As the longest tenured member of the Deluxe Board, Mr. Nachtsheim also brings an historical perspective to the Board's role in guiding strategic discussions. In addition, the Board believes Mr. Nachtsheim has been particularly effective in the role of Non-Executive Chairman, acting as a liaison between the Board and management, and mentor to the CEO.

MARY ANN O'DWYER Director since October 2003 Age 55

Senior Vice President Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer, Wheels, Inc.

Wheels, Inc. is a leading provider of fleet management services to Fortune 1000 companies, with more than 300,000 vehicles under management. Ms. O'Dwyer joined Wheels in 1991 and has served as Chief Financial Officer since 1994. As Senior Vice President Finance and Operations since 1999, she is also responsible for all Vehicle Operations and Customer Service functions. Ms. O'Dwyer also serves as a director of Wheels, Inc. and its parent company, Frank Consolidated Enterprises. In addition to the strong financial acumen and operational background she brings to the Board, Ms. O'Dwyer's experience at Wheels has included analyzing the strength of a company's financial condition, assessing credit risks, accessing capital markets, and implementing internal control systems and risk mitigation strategies. These qualifications serve Deluxe and its shareholders not only by helping to oversee the integrity of Deluxe's financial statements, but also in supporting the Company's strategies to ensure access to capital and in evaluating potential acquisition candidates as part of the Company's growth strategies.

### **Table of Contents**

MARTYN R. REDGRAVE Director since August 2001 Age 58

Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Limited Brands, Inc.

Mr. Redgrave has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Limited Brands, Inc., since March 2005, and also served as Chief Financial Officer from January 2006 to May 2007. Limited Brands is one of the world's leading personal care, beauty, intimate apparel and apparel specialty retailers. Prior to joining Limited Brands, Mr. Redgrave served for eleven years as the Executive Vice President-Finance and Chief Financial Officer of Carlson Companies, Inc., a worldwide provider of hospitality, travel and marketing services. Also bringing extensive financial and accounting acumen to the Board, Mr. Redgrave's background in overseeing the financial systems, operations and controls of complex business operations is particularly relevant to the work of the Deluxe Board. At Limited Brands, Mr. Redgrave has day-to-day involvement with matters similar to those encountered by Deluxe, such as financial reporting and controls, enterprise risk management, information technology systems, data management and protection, and access to capital markets. His background also includes M&A financial analysis, a continuing area of importance for Deluxe.

LEE J. SCHRAM Director since May 2006 Age 49

Chief Executive Officer of Deluxe

Mr. Schram became CEO of Deluxe Corporation on May 1, 2006. Prior to joining Deluxe, Mr. Schram served as Senior Vice President of NCR Corporation's Retail Solutions Division, with responsibilities for NCR's global retail store automation and point-of-sale solutions business, including development, engineering, marketing, sales, and support functions. Mr. Schram began his professional career with NCR Corporation in 1983, where he held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility that included both domestic and international assignments. From September 2000 to January 2002, he served as Chief Financial Officer for the Retail and Financial Group. Thereafter, he became Vice President and General Manager of Payment and Imaging Solutions in NCR's Financial Services Division, a position he held until March 2003, when he became Senior Vice President of the Retail Solutions Division. He is the sole member of the Company's management represented on the Board.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR the election of each nominee named on the preceding pages.

### **Table of Contents**

#### BOARD STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

### Board Oversight and Director Independence

Deluxe's business, property and affairs are managed under the general direction of our Board of Directors. In providing this oversight, the Board adheres to a set of Corporate Governance Guidelines designed to ensure that the Board has access to relevant information, and is structured and operates in a manner allowing it to exercise independent business judgment.

A critical component of our corporate governance philosophy is that a majority of our directors, and preferably a substantial majority, be individuals who meet strict standards of independence, meaning that they have no relationship with Deluxe, directly or indirectly, that could impair their ability to make objective and informed judgments regarding all matters of significance to Deluxe and its shareholders. The listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") require that a majority of our directors be independent, and that our Corporate Governance, Audit and Compensation Committees be comprised entirely of independent directors. In order to be deemed independent, a director must be determined by the Board to have no material relationship with Deluxe other than as a director. In accordance with the NYSE listing standards, our Board has adopted formal Director Independence Standards setting forth the specific criteria by which the independence of our directors will be determined, including restrictions on the nature and extent of any affiliations directors and their immediate family members may have with Deluxe, its independent registered public accounting firm, or any commercial or not-for-profit entity with which Deluxe has a relationship. Consistent with regulations of the SEC, our Director Independence Standards also prohibit Audit Committee members from accepting, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from Deluxe, other than in their capacity as Board or committee members. The complete text of our Director Independence Standards is posted on the Corporate Governance page of the News and Investor Relations section of our website at www.deluxe.com under the "Corporate Governance" caption.

The Board has determined that every director and nominee, with the exception of Mr. Schram, satisfies our Director Independence Standards. The Board also has determined that every member of its Corporate Governance, Audit and Compensation Committees is independent.

### Corporate Governance Principles

As indicated above, our Board has adopted a set of Corporate Governance Guidelines to assist it in carrying out its oversight responsibilities. These Guidelines address a broad range of topics, including director qualifications, director nomination processes, term limits, Board and committee structure and processes, Board evaluations, director education, CEO evaluation, management succession planning and conflicts of interest. The complete text of the Guidelines is posted on the Corporate Governance page of the News and Investor Relations section of our website at www.deluxe.com under the "Corporate Governance" caption. A copy of the Guidelines is available in print free of charge to any shareholder who submits a request to: Corporate Secretary, Deluxe Corporation, 3680 Victoria Street North, Shoreview, Minnesota 55126.

### Code of Ethics and Business Conduct

All of our directors and employees, including our CEO, Chief Financial Officer and other executives, are required to comply with our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct ("Code of Ethics") to help ensure that our business is conducted in accordance with legal and ethical standards. Our Code of Ethics requires strict adherence to the letter and spirit of

all laws and regulations applicable to our business, and also addresses professional conduct, including customer relationships, respect for co-workers, conflicts of interest, insider trading, the integrity of our financial recordkeeping and reporting, and the protection of our intellectual property and confidential information. Employees are required to bring any violations or suspected violations of the Code of Ethics to Deluxe's attention through management or Deluxe's law department, or by using our confidential compliance hotline. The full text of our Code of Ethics is posted on the Corporate Governance page of the News and Investor Relations section of our website at www.deluxe.com under the "Corporate Governance" caption. The Code of Ethics is available in print free of charge to any shareholder who submits a request to: Corporate Secretary, Deluxe Corporation, 3680 Victoria Street North, Shoreview, Minnesota 55126.

### **Table of Contents**

### Related Party Transaction Policy and Procedures

The Board maintains written procedures under which the Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing potential or actual conflicts of interest, including any proposed related party transactions and interlocking relationships involving executives and Board members. The Committee determines whether any such potential or actual conflicts would require disclosure under securities laws, cause a director to be disqualified from being deemed independent, or cause a transaction being considered by the Board to be voidable if the conflict were not disclosed. The Committee also considers whether the proposed transaction would result in a violation of any law or be inappropriate in light of the nature and magnitude of any interest of the director or executive in the entity or transaction giving rise to the potential conflict.

The Committee may take those actions it deems necessary, with the assistance of any advisors it deems appropriate, in considering potential conflicts of interest. While it is expected that in most instances the Committee can make the necessary determination, where required by state law or due to the significance of the issue, the matter will be referred to the full Board for resolution.

Deluxe maintains a commercial relationship with Wheels, Inc. that was reviewed and approved under these procedures. Wheels, Inc. is a \$1.5 billion company that provides automobile leasing, fleet management and related services. Deluxe selected Wheels, Inc. to provide these services as the result of a competitive bidding process in which several other service providers also participated. Ms. O'Dwyer, who is an executive with Wheels, did not participate in the bidding or selection process. Under the terms of the arms-length contract governing this relationship, which expires on December 9, 2011, Deluxe's aggregate payment to Wheels, Inc. for 2010 was approximately \$1,360,000, which amount is well below the thresholds for independence established by the NYSE and provided for in our Director Independence Standards. The relationship with Wheels, Inc. was duly considered by the Board in making its determination that Ms. O'Dwyer is independent.

Effective March 16, 2009, the Company entered into an agreement with a management consulting firm, Aveus, LLC ("Aveus Agreement"), by which Aveus provided interim leadership support, management and staffing support, direct involvement in market management decisions, and support for strategic, operating and organization transformation efforts. The Aveus Agreement, which expired on January 31, 2011, also provided that Joanne M. McGowan, an Aveus partner, would serve as the primary consultant from Aveus. Until July, 2010, Ms. McGowan led the Small Business Services ("SBS") business segment of the Company, acting at the direction of the Company's CEO and others to whom he delegated decision-making authority. She was responsible for guiding the development and implementation of the SBS growth strategy, providing day-to-day oversight of SBS and leading organizational changes designed to more effectively achieve SBS objectives. In light of these responsibilities, Ms. McGowan had been deemed by the Company to be an executive officer for SEC reporting purposes, which is why the Company is disclosing the Aveus arrangement to our shareholders. In July, 2010 the SBS leadership responsibilities were assumed by a full-time employee hired at that time to fill the role of Senior Vice President in charge of that segment. During 2010, the Company paid Aveus a total of \$890,000.00 under the Aveus Agreement, which included fees for services provided by Ms. McGowan, as well as for overhead, research, data collection and support services and required expense reimbursements. The Company does not have access to information concerning the compensation Ms. McGowan received from Aveus for her services to the Company during 2010, but, based on representations furnished by Aveus, believes that it is substantially less than the compensation of any Named Executive Officer in this proxy statement.

**Board Composition and Qualifications** 

Our Corporate Governance Committee also oversees the process for identifying and evaluating candidates for the Board of Directors. While not maintaining a specific policy on Board diversity requirements, we do believe that our directors should have diverse backgrounds and possess a variety of qualifications, experience and knowledge that complement the attributes of other Board members and enable them to contribute effectively to the evaluation of our business strategies and to the Board's oversight role. Deluxe also believes that a predominance of Board members should have a background in business, including experience in markets served by the Company or in which it is developing product and service offerings, and recognizes the benefit of Board members having an understanding of the methods by which other boards address issues common to publicly traded companies. We also believe the Board should include both actively employed and retired senior corporate officers, and that directors should range in age so as to maintain a sound balance of board tenure and experience, as well as staggered retirement dates. The Board believes that the diverse mix of skills, qualifications and experience represented by the current directors and nominees (as addressed more fully in the section of this proxy statement entitled "ITEM 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS") effectively allows the Board to perform its responsibilities with respect to fiduciary oversight and evaluation of strategy.

### **Table of Contents**

The Board of Directors has established the following specific guidelines for nominees to the Board:

- A majority of the Board must be comprised of independent directors, the current standards for which are discussed above under "Board Oversight and Director Independence."
- As a general rule, non-employees should not be nominated for re-election to the Board after their 72nd birthday, although the Board retains the ability to grant exemptions to that age limit where it determines that such an exemption will serve the interests of Deluxe and its shareholders.
- •A non-employee director who ceases to hold the employment position held at the time of election to the Board, or who has a significant change in position, should offer to resign. The Corporate Governance Committee will then consider whether the change of status is likely to impact the director's qualifications and make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the resignation should be accepted.
- Management directors who terminate employment with Deluxe should offer to resign. The Board will then decide whether to accept the director's resignation, provided that no more than one former CEO should serve on the Board at any one time.

Other selection criteria used to evaluate potential candidates may include successful senior level business management experience or experience that fulfills a specific need, prior experience and proven accomplishment as a director of a public company, commitment to attending Board and committee meetings, a reputation for honesty and integrity, interest in serving the needs of shareholders, employees and communities in which we operate, and compatibility with existing directors.

#### **Director Selection Process**

All Board members are elected annually by our shareholders, subject to the Board's right to fill vacancies in existing or new director positions on an interim basis. Based on advice from the Corporate Governance Committee, each year the Board recommends a slate of directors to be presented for election at the annual meeting of shareholders.

The Corporate Governance Committee considers candidates recommended by members of the Board or recommended by our shareholders, and the Committee reviews such candidates in accordance with our bylaws and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Candidates recommended by our shareholders are evaluated in accordance with the same criteria and using the same procedures as candidates recommended by Board members or the CEO. In order for such shareholder recommendations to be considered, shareholders must provide the Corporate Governance Committee with sufficient written documentation to permit a determination by the Board as to whether such a candidate meets the required and desired director selection criteria set forth in our bylaws and our Corporate Governance Guidelines, and as outlined above. Such documentation and the name of the recommended director candidate must be sent by U.S. mail to our Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Our Corporate Secretary will send properly submitted shareholder recommendations to the Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration at a future Committee meeting.

### **Table of Contents**

When a vacancy or a new position on the Board needs to be filled, the CEO, in consultation with the Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee, drafts a profile of the candidate he or she believes would provide the most meaningful contributions to the Board as a whole. The profile is submitted to the Committee for approval. In order to properly staff its various committees and support its succession planning initiatives, the Board currently believes that a Board consisting of nine to eleven directors is the optimal size. The Committee has made it a practice in recent years to engage third-party search firms to assist it in identifying suitable candidates. The firms selected, as well as the specific terms of the engagement, are based on the specific search criteria established by the Committee. Members of the Board also are given the opportunity to submit names of potential candidates based on the profile developed. Each candidate is subject to an initial screening process after which the Committee selects the candidates that it wishes to interview. The Chair of the Board, the CEO and at least a majority of the Committee interviews each candidate and, concurrently with the interviews, the candidate will confirm his or her availability for regularly scheduled Board and committee meetings. The Committee will also assess each candidate's potential conflicts of interest and the ways in which their qualifications, experience and knowledge complement those of the members of the Board. The Committee reviews the interviewers' reports and recommendations, and makes the final determination as to which candidates are recommended for election to the Board. Depending on when suitable candidates are identified, the Board may decide to appoint a new director to serve on the Board until the next annual meeting of shareholders.

Our bylaws require any shareholder wishing to nominate a candidate at the annual meeting of shareholders to give written notice of the nomination to our CEO or Corporate Secretary no later than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting. The shareholder must attend the meeting with the candidate and propose the candidate's nomination for election to the Board at the meeting. The shareholder's notice must set forth as to each nominee: (1) the name, age, business address and residence address of the person, (2) the principal occupation or employment of the person, (3) the number of shares of our stock owned by the person, (4) the written and acknowledged statement of the person that such person is willing to serve as a director, and (5) any other information relating to the person that would be required to be disclosed in a solicitation of proxies for election of directors pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, if the candidate had been nominated by or on behalf of the Board. No shareholders submitted director nominations in connection with this year's meeting. Any shareholders desiring to present a candidate at the 2012 annual meeting of shareholders must furnish the required notice no later than December 29, 2011.

### Meetings and Committees of the Board of Directors

There were seven meetings of the Board of Directors in 2010, six of which were regular meetings. Each director attended, in person or by telephone, at least 75 percent of the aggregate of all meetings of the Board and its committees on which he or she served during the year. It is our policy that directors attend our annual shareholder meetings and nine of our directors attended our annual shareholder meeting in 2010.

The Board of Directors has four standing committees:

•	Audit Committee;	
•	Compensation Committee;	
•	Corporate Governance Committee; and	
•	Finance Committee.	

Each of the Board committees has a written charter, approved by the Board, establishing the authority and responsibilities of the committee. Each committee's charter is posted on the Corporate Governance page of the News and Investor Relations section of our website at www.deluxe.com under the "Corporate Governance" caption. A copy of each charter is available in print free of charge to any shareholder who submits a request to: Corporate Secretary, Deluxe Corporation, 3680 Victoria Street North, Shoreview, Minnesota 55126.

### **Table of Contents**

The following tables provide a summary of each committee's responsibilities, the number of meetings held by each committee during the last fiscal year and the names of the directors currently serving on the committee.

#### **Audit Committee**

Responsibilities

Number of meetings in 2010: 9

Directors who serve on the committee:

Martyn R. Redgrave, Chair Ronald C. Baldwin Isaiah Harris, Jr. Cheryl E. Mayberry McKissack Mary Ann O'Dwyer

Appoints and replaces the independent registered

public accounting firm, subject to ratification by our shareholders, and oversees the work of the

independent registered public accounting firm. Pre-approves all auditing services and permitted non-audit services to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm,

including related fees.

Reviews and discusses with management and the independent registered public accounting firm our annual audited financial statements and recommends to the Board whether the audited financial statements should be included in Deluxe's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Reviews and discusses with management and the independent registered public accounting firm our quarterly financial statements and the associated earnings news releases.

Reviews and discusses with management and the independent registered public accounting firm significant reporting issues and judgments relating to the preparation of our financial statements, including the adequacy of internal controls.

Reviews and discusses with the independent registered public accounting firm our critical accounting policies and practices, alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, and other material written communications between the independent registered public accounting firm and management.

Oversees the work of our internal auditors. Reviews the effectiveness of Deluxe's legal and ethical compliance programs and maintains

procedures for receiving, retaining and handling complaints by employees regarding accounting, internal controls and auditing matters.

# Compensation Committee

Responsibilities		Number of meetings in 2010: 5
	Develops our executive compensation philosophy. Evaluates and recommends incentive compensation plans for executive officers and other key managers, and all equity-based compensation plans, and	Directors who serve on the committee:
	oversees the administration of these and other employee compensation and benefit plans.	Don J. McGrath, Chair Charles A. Haggerty Neil J. Metviner
	Reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives relating to the CEO's compensation, leads an annual evaluation of the CEO's performance in light of those goals and objectives, and recommends to the Board the CEO's compensation based on this evaluation.  Reviews and approves other executive officers' compensation.  Establishes and certifies attainment of incentive compensation goals and performance measurements applicable to our executive officers.	Stephen P. Nachtsheim

# Table of Contents

# Corporate Governance Committee

Responsibilities		Number of meetings in 2010: 4
	Reviews and recommends the size and composition of the Board, including the mix of management and independent directors.	Directors who serve on the committee:
	Establishes criteria and procedures for identifying and evaluating potential Board candidates.	Cheryl E. Mayberry McKissack, Chair Isaiah Harris, Jr.
	Reviews nominations received from the Board or shareholders, and recommends candidates for election to the Board.	Don J. McGrath Stephen P. Nachtsheim
	Establishes policies and procedures to ensure the effectiveness of the Board, including policies regarding term limits, review of qualifications of incumbent directors, and conflicts of interest.	
•	Establishes guidelines for conducting Board meetings.	
•	Oversees the annual assessment of the Board's performance.	
	In consultation with the Compensation Committee, reviews and recommends to the Board the amount and form of all compensation paid to directors.	
•	Recommends to the Board the size, composition and responsibilities of all Board committees.	
	Reviews and recommends candidates for key executive officer positions and monitors management succession plans.	
	Develops and recommends corporate governance guidelines, policies and procedures.	
Finance Committee		
Responsibilities	Evaluates acquisitions, divestitures and capital	Number of meetings in 2010: 4
	projects in excess of \$5 million, and reviews other material financial transactions outside the scope of normal on-going business activity.	Directors who serve on the committee:
	Reviews and approves the Company's annual financing plans, as well as credit facilities	Mary Ann O'Dwyer, Chair Ronald C. Baldwin
	maintained by the Company.  Reviews and recommends policies concerning corporate finance matters, including capitalization,	Charles A. Haggerty Neil J. Metviner Martyn R. Redgrave
	investment of assets and debt/equity guidelines. Reviews and recommends dividend policy and	

approves declarations of regular shareholder

regarding financial strategy and proposals

Reviews and makes recommendations to the Board

concerning the sale, repurchase or split of Deluxe

dividends.

securities.

#### Communications with Directors

Any interested party having concerns about our governance or business practices, or otherwise wishing to communicate with our independent directors, may submit their concerns in writing to the Non-Executive Chairman of the Board or the independent directors as a group in the care of the office of: Corporate Secretary, Deluxe Corporation, 3680 Victoria Street North, Shoreview, Minnesota 55126.

Board Leadership Structure; Non-Executive Chairman; Executive Sessions

As stated in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Board does not maintain a strict policy regarding separation of the offices of Chairman and CEO, believing that this issue should be addressed as part of the Board's succession planning processes. In November of 2005, Deluxe was engaged in a search for a new CEO, and the Board appointed Mr. Nachtsheim as Non-Executive Chairman to remove the responsibilities of Board Chair from the then-interim CEO. When Mr. Schram was hired to be the Company's CEO in 2006, the Board made the determination that it would be in the Company's best interest to maintain the separation of the Chairman and CEO roles, largely to allow Mr. Schram to focus on Deluxe's operational imperatives with support from a Non-Executive Chair on Board governance matters. Mr. Nachtsheim continued to serve as the Non-Executive Chairman of the Board during 2010. Mr. Nachtsheim's duties included moderating meetings and executive sessions of the independent directors and acting as the principal liaison between the independent directors and the CEO with respect to Board governance issues.

#### **Table of Contents**

Our independent directors make it a practice to meet in executive session without management present at each Board meeting. Likewise, all Board committees regularly meet in executive session without management.

#### Board Role in Risk Oversight

The Board takes an active role in risk oversight related to the Company both as a full Board and through its committees. The Board regularly meets in executive session to, among other things, assess the quality of its meetings and to provide its observations to the CEO regarding the Company's business challenges and risk mitigation strategies.

In addition, the Company conducts an annual enterprise-wide risk assessment. A formal report is delivered to the Audit Committee, the chair of which provides a synopsis to the Board each December. Updates are provided at regularly scheduled meetings and more frequently if required. The objectives for the risk assessment process include (i) facilitating the NYSE governance requirement that the Audit Committee discuss policies around risk assessment and risk management; (ii) developing a defined list of key risks to be monitored by the Audit Committee, Board and senior management; (iii) determining whether there are risks that require additional or higher priority mitigation efforts; (iv) facilitating discussion of the risk factors to be included in the Company's SEC reports, and (v) guiding the development of the Company's internal audit plans.

In 2010, the risk assessment process was conducted by members of our internal audit department working with senior management and the Enterprise Risk Council, consisting of senior level staff from the legal, finance and other shared services departments. Members of the internal audit department interviewed key department and functional leaders in the Company to identify and evaluate potential risks and associated mitigating factors and strategies. Any identified risks were prioritized based on the potential exposure to the Company, measured as a function of likelihood of occurrence and potential severity of impact if the risk were to materialize. The process included evaluating management's preparedness to respond to the risk if realized. The risk profiles and current and future mitigating actions were discussed and refined during subsequent discussions with senior management. A summary of the results of the risk assessment process and our risk mitigation activities was presented to the Audit Committee, which furnished a report to, and facilitated a discussion with, the full Board.

#### Audit Committee Expertise; Complaint-Handling Procedures

In addition to meeting the independence requirements of the NYSE and the SEC, all members of the Audit Committee have been determined by the Board to meet the financial literacy requirements of the NYSE's listing standards. The Board also has determined that at least one member of the Audit Committee, including Martyn Redgrave, the Committee Chair, is an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by SEC regulations.

In accordance with federal law, the Audit Committee has adopted procedures governing the receipt, retention and handling of complaints regarding accounting and auditing matters. These procedures include a means for employees to submit concerns on a confidential and anonymous basis, through Deluxe's compliance hotline.

#### **Table of Contents**

Compensation Committee Processes and Procedures

The authority and responsibilities of the Compensation Committee are governed by its charter, a copy of which can be found on Deluxe Corporation's website at www.deluxe.com, together with applicable laws, rules, regulations and NYSE listing standards.

The Compensation Committee is authorized to review and approve corporate goals and objectives related to the CEO's compensation, lead the Board's evaluation of the CEO's performance in light of those goals and objectives, and recommend to the Board the CEO's compensation based on the evaluation. The Committee is expected to engage the entire Board in its evaluation of the CEO's performance and appropriate level of compensation.

The Committee also reviews and approves each executive officer's base pay and incentive compensation levels, stock ownership targets, employment-related agreements and any unique benefit plans or programs for executives. As part of this responsibility, the Committee evaluates and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the Company's compensation philosophy and structure, the design of incentive compensation plans in which executives participate and all equity plans. It establishes incentive compensation goals and performance measurements for executives and determines the levels of achievement of each executive relative to the goals and measurements. Subject to limits imposed by the plans, applicable law and the Board, the Committee also oversees administration of equity-based plans, deferred compensation plans, benefit plans, retirement and Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") excess plans, and also is responsible for determining the formula used to calculate contributions to the Company's current profit sharing plan. The Committee has delegated to management committees the responsibility to administer broad-based benefit plans and the responsibility to oversee investment options and management of retirement and deferred compensation programs.

Although matters of director compensation ultimately are the responsibility of the full Board, the Compensation Committee works in conjunction with the Board's Corporate Governance Committee and its independent compensation consultants in evaluating director compensation levels, making recommendations regarding the structure of director compensation, and developing a director pay philosophy that is aligned with the interests of the Company's shareholders.

The Committee has the authority to engage compensation consultants to assist it in conducting the activities within its general scope of responsibility. Since 2001, the committee has retained Towers Watson & Co. (sometimes referred to as "Towers Watson" and known until January 2010 as Watson Wyatt Worldwide, Inc) as its independent consultant. The Committee has the sole authority to retain, terminate and approve the fees of a compensation consultant for the purpose of assisting in the evaluation of director, CEO and executive compensation. For 2010, the Company paid no fees for any additional services provided by Towers Watson.

#### Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The Compensation Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors. No member of the Compensation Committee has been an officer or employee of Deluxe. None of our executives serve as a member of the Compensation Committee of any other company that has an executive serving as a member of the Deluxe Board of Directors. None of our executives serve as a member of the board of directors of any other company that has an executive serving as a member of the Compensation Committee.

Non-Employee Director Compensation

Directors who are employees of Deluxe do not receive compensation for their service on the Board other than their compensation as employees. Non-employee directors each receive a \$50,000 annual Board retainer, payable quarterly. For 2010, the Non-Executive Chairman received an incremental \$100,000 annual retainer, also payable quarterly.

#### **Table of Contents**

In order to fairly compensate non-employee directors for their service on Board committees, the elements, workload and responsibilities of which will fluctuate from time to time, committee members are paid fees for each committee meeting attended, with the chair of each committee also receiving an annual retainer for serving as the chair.

For 2010, the committee fee structure was as follows:

			Other
	Audit	Compensation	Standing
	Committee	Committee	Committees
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Chair Retainer	15,000	7,500	5,000
In-Person Meeting Attendance	2,000	1,500	1,500
Telephonic Meeting Attendance	1,000	750	750

Non-employee directors also receive \$1,500 for each approved site visit and director education program attended, up to a maximum of five per year, in the aggregate. Directors also may receive additional compensation for the performance of duties assigned by the Board or its committees that are considered beyond the scope of the ordinary responsibilities of directors or committee members.

Deluxe maintains a Non-Employee Director Stock and Deferral Plan (the "Director Plan"), which was approved by shareholders as part of Deluxe's 2008 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Stock Incentive Plan"). The purpose of the Director Plan is to provide an opportunity for non-employee directors to increase their ownership of Deluxe's common stock and thereby align their interest in the long-term success of Deluxe with that of other shareholders. Under the Director Plan, each non-employee director may elect to receive, in lieu of cash retainers and fees, shares of Deluxe common stock having an equal value, based on the closing price of Deluxe's stock on the NYSE as of the quarterly payment date. The shares of common stock receivable pursuant to the Director Plan are issued as of the quarterly payment date or, at the option of the director, credited to the director in the form of deferred restricted stock units. These restricted stock units vest and are converted into shares of common stock on the earlier of the tenth anniversary of February 1st of the year following the year in which the non-employee director ceases to serve on the Board or such other objectively determinable date as is elected by the director in his or her deferral election (for example, upon termination of service as a director). Each restricted stock unit entitles the holder to receive dividend equivalent payments equal to the dividend payment on one share of common stock. Restricted stock units issued pursuant to the Director Plan vest and convert into shares of common stock in connection with certain defined changes of control of Deluxe. All shares of common stock issued pursuant to the Director Plan are issued under Deluxe's Stock Incentive Plan.

Under the terms of the Stock Incentive Plan, non-employee directors also are eligible to receive other equity-based awards to further align their interests with shareholders and assist them in achieving and maintaining their established share ownership targets. In 2010, non-employee directors were provided the opportunity to defer any equity grant awarded to them under terms similar to those described above for deferral of cash retainers and fees under the Director Plan. The equity grant deferral opportunity has been made an on-going part of the Director Plan. Any stock options granted to non-employee directors must have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of Deluxe's common stock on the date of grant, and no more than 5,000 options may be granted to a non-employee director in any one year. Non-employee directors did not receive any option grants in 2010, but each non-employee director re-elected to the Board at last year's annual meeting received a grant of restricted stock on April 28, 2010, with an approximate grant date value of \$80,000, which shares vest one year from the grant date. Equity grants to directors are recommended by the Compensation Committee, in consultation with the Corporate Governance Committee, and are ratified by the full Board.

Mr. Nachtsheim, the only non-employee director who was elected to the Board prior to October 1997, is also eligible for certain retirement payments under the terms of a Board retirement plan that has since been replaced by the Director Plan. Under this predecessor plan, he is entitled to receive an annual payment equal to the annual Board retainer in effect on July 1, 1997 (\$30,000 per year) for the number of years during which he served on the Board prior to October 31, 1997. No further benefits are accruing under this plan. In calculating a director's eligibility for benefits under this plan, partial years of service are rounded up to the nearest whole number. Retirement payments do not extend beyond the lifetime of the retiree and are contingent upon the retiree's remaining available for consultation with management and refraining from engaging in any activity in competition with Deluxe. Mr. Nachtsheim is eligible to receive payments of \$30,000 for two years following his retirement from the Board under this plan.

#### **Table of Contents**

The following table summarizes the compensation earned by each non-employee director during 2010.

#### **DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR 2010**

	Fees Earned or Paid in	Stock	Option	All Other Compensation	
	Cash 1	Awards 2	Awards 3	4	Total
Name	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Ronald C. Baldwin	69,750	79,993	0	3,979	153,722
Charles A. Haggerty	64,494	79,993	0	3,979	148,466
Isaiah Harris, Jr.	69,000	79,993	0	3,979	152,972
Cheryl E. Mayberry McKissack	79,250	79,993	0	3,979	163,222
Don J. McGrath	67,756	79,993	0	3,979	151,728
Neil J. Metviner	63,500	79,993	0	3,979	147,472
Stephen P. Nachtsheim	162,750	79,993	0	3,979	246,722
Mary Ann O'Dwyer	72,250	79,993	0	3,979	156,222
Martyn R. Redgrave	85,750	79,993	0	3,979	169,722

- 1 Under the Director Plan, directors may elect to receive their fees in the form of stock, including the right to defer such stock into restricted stock units. Any stock or stock units issued under the Director Plan are equal in value to the cash fees foregone by the director. As a result, amounts reflected are the total fees earned by the directors, including amounts elected to be received in the form of stock or restricted stock units.
- 2 Amounts in this column reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of stock awards granted during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 computed in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 718. All directors received 3,731 shares of restricted stock or restricted stock units upon their re-election to the Board on April 28, 2010. These shares or units will vest one year from the date of grant. As of December 31, 2010 the aggregate number of shares of unvested restricted stock or restricted stock units for each director was 3,731, and the aggregate number of restricted stock units held by each director was as follows: Mr. Haggerty, 10,184; Mr. Harris, 4,900; Mr. McGrath, 13,559; Mr. Nachtsheim, 9,966; Ms. O'Dwyer, 11,636; Mr. Redgrave, 9,360.
- 3No options were granted to the non-employee directors in 2010. As of December 31, 2010, the number of outstanding options held by each director was as follows: Charles A. Haggerty, 2,000; Isaiah Harris, Jr., 1,000; Cheryl E. Mayberry McKissack, 2,000; Stephen P. Nachtsheim, 2,000; Mary Ann O'Dwyer, 2,000, and Martyn R. Redgrave, 2,000. All outstanding options expire seven years from the grant date, vest in equal 1/3 increments on each anniversary of the grant date, and carry exercise prices equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant date.
- 4 Amounts reflect dividends paid in 2010 on unvested restricted stock and restricted stock units.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

# ITEM 2: ADVISORY VOTE ON COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (referred to as "Say-on-Pay")

The Company is providing its shareholders with the opportunity to cast an advisory (nonbinding) vote on the compensation of its Named Executive Officers as described below. The Company believes that it is appropriate to seek the views of shareholders on the design and effectiveness of the Company's executive compensation program.

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis, beginning on page 25 of this proxy statement, describes in greater detail the Company's executive compensation program and decisions made by the Compensation Committee in 2010.

The Company believes the compensation program for the Named Executive Officers is instrumental in helping the Company achieve its strong financial performance and requests the vote of shareholders on the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the shareholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of Deluxe's Named Executive Officers, as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section, the compensation tables and the narrative disclosures that accompany the compensation tables set forth in this proxy statement.

As an advisory vote, this Item is not binding upon the Company. However, the Compensation Committee, which is responsible for designing and administering the Company's executive compensation program, values the opinions expressed by shareholders in their vote on this Item and will consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions for Named Executive Officers.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers.

#### ITEM 3: ADVISORY VOTE ON FREQUENCY OF SAY-ON-PAY VOTES

This Item affords shareholders the opportunity to cast an advisory (nonbinding) vote on how often the Company should include a Say-on-Pay vote in its proxy materials for future annual shareholder meetings (or special shareholder meetings for which the Company must include executive compensation information in the proxy statement for that meeting). Under Item 3, shareholders may vote to have the Say-on-Pay vote every year, every two years, every three years, or abstain.

Say-on-Pay votes are a relatively recent occurrence. In assessing the frequency with which such votes should be conducted, several factors come into play. Advocates of annual Say-on-Pay votes generally believe that shareholders should be allowed to express their views on a company's executive compensation program every year, and that such regular feedback from shareholders enhances a company's ability to monitor shareholder sentiment and act accordingly. Those who advocate for less frequent votes generally argue that annual Say-on-Pay votes impose an unwarranted burden on the companies that must prepare for such votes, as well as on shareholders who must assess and vote upon Say-on-Pay each year. They also argue that annual Say-on-Pay votes do not afford companies an adequate opportunity to digest and, if necessary, respond to results of the most recent Say-on-Pay vote.

At the present time, the Company believes that annual Say-on-Pay votes would be beneficial so that shareholders will have an opportunity each year to express their views on the Company's executive compensation program. The highest number of votes cast for this Item will be considered the preferred frequency with which Deluxe is to hold a

shareholder vote to approve the compensation of the Named Executive Officers.

#### **Table of Contents**

As an advisory vote, this Item is not binding upon the Company. However, the Compensation Committee, which administers the Company's executive compensation program, values the opinions expressed by shareholders and will consider the outcome of this vote in making a determination regarding the Say-on-Pay voting frequency deemed most appropriate for Deluxe. In the event the Company subsequently is led to believe that a different frequency is more appropriate, it may re-visit this issue with shareholders by seeking another advisory vote, and in all events will do so at least once every six years as required by current law.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote to hold Say-on-Pay votes EVERY YEAR (as opposed to every 2 years or every 3 years).

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### Introduction

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the various tables and accompanying narrative disclosure appearing in this proxy statement. Those tables and narrative provide more detailed information regarding the compensation and benefits awarded to, earned by, or paid to our Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and the other executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table appearing on page 35 (collectively, the "Named Executive Officers"), as well as the plans in which such officers are eligible to participate. Items 2 and 3 presented in this proxy statement seek our shareholders' input on Deluxe's executive compensation program. This Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and the narrative disclosures that accompany the tables provide information that will assist our shareholders in deciding how to vote on those items.

#### **Executive Summary**

The goal of our executive compensation program is to attract and retain the best available leadership talent, and to reward our leaders for creating long-term value for our shareholders. Our compensation program is designed to reward sustained financial and operating performance and leadership excellence, align the executives' long-term interests with those of our shareholders and motivate our executives to remain with the Company for long and productive careers. We believe it combines a competitive mix of cash and equity and short-term and long-term compensation to reinforce a balance between meeting short-term goals and achieving long-term growth.

As explained in greater detail below, Deluxe maintains a strong pay-for-performance philosophy, as evidenced by the fact that a significant portion of each executive's total compensation is linked to financial and other performance criteria intended to deliver sustainable business results and drive shareholder value. While risk-taking is a necessary component in any successful business model, we employ a number of features in our compensation program that are designed to prevent inappropriate or short-sighted risk-taking. We think the combination of compensation elements in the program provides the Named Executive Officers with the appropriate incentives to create long-term value for shareholders while taking thoughtful and prudent risks to deliver strong performance year after year.

Throughout 2010, the Company maintained its financial discipline and strategic focus, which led the Company to not only deliver very strong profitability and cash flow performance, but also to improve its opportunities for long-term growth. It did so, moreover, in what continued to be a very challenging economic environment. Details regarding the Company's performance in 2010 are contained in our Annual Report to Shareholders, which we encourage all shareholders to read. Some highlights of that performance, and the value being created for our shareholders, include

the following:

#### **Table of Contents**

- Our consolidated revenue increased 4.3%
- Our services related revenue, an area of focus for growth, increased nearly 34%
  - Our operating income increased almost 48%
  - Our earnings per share increased more than 52%
    - Our stock price increased more than 55%

We believe the structure of our executive compensation program was a critical factor in aligning the priorities of the Company's leaders to deliver solid results in 2010, while at the same time providing a strong foundation for continued success. We hope our shareholders will agree and will express their support in voting FOR Item 2 in this proxy statement.

#### Compensation Objectives and Philosophy

Deluxe is committed to providing executive compensation that attracts, motivates and retains exceptional executive talent for the benefit of our shareholders, supports Deluxe's business objectives, and aligns the interests of the executive officers, including our Named Executive Officers, with the long-term interests of our shareholders. We believe these objectives are achieved by:

- Continually evaluating the competitiveness of our compensation programs relative to comparable organizations;
- Providing performance-based pay through annual and long-term incentive opportunities that are based on the achievement of specific business objectives (i.e., pay-for-performance);
  - Providing equity-based incentives that promote the creation of long-term shareholder value;
- Delivering a significant portion of total compensation through performance-based pay linked to financial results and shareholder return; and
  - Ensuring that the Named Executive Officers hold meaningful equity stakes in Deluxe.

Roles of Committee, Outside Compensation Advisors and Management in Compensation Decisions

The Deluxe compensation program is designed to align all components of pay opportunity (base pay, annual incentive pay, long-term incentive pay, and benefits) at or near the median of the market, for each component and as a whole, and reward performance that meets or exceeds performance goals that are established, reviewed and approved each year by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (sometimes referred to in this section as the "Committee"). In arriving at the appropriate levels of pay and incentive opportunities, the Committee also considers the degree to which the structure of the program rewards reasonable risk-taking and the overall cost of the compensation program so as to achieve proper balance between the need to reward employees and to deliver returns to Deluxe's shareholders. Accordingly, the Committee annually reviews the proportion of operating income used to reward employee performance through our incentive plans.

The Committee has responsibility for guiding our executive compensation philosophy and overseeing the design of executive compensation programs. The Committee also recommends the compensation to be paid to the CEO (with approval from the full Board of Directors) and approves the compensation paid to other executive officers. The Committee is composed entirely of "independent directors" as defined by the NYSE corporate governance rules. In order to ensure a holistic view of the compensation and benefits provided to our executives, the Committee reviews on an annual basis a summary (or tally sheet) of all elements of compensation for each member of the Company's Executive Leadership Team. Due to economic conditions in 2010, it was determined that there would be no changes in base compensation levels, except in the event of a promotion or significant change in responsibility. The Committee also monitors, with the support of management and the Committee's independent compensation consultants, developing best practices in the area of executive compensation, including recommended pay principles published by various trade, legal and advisory groups. While the Committee remains focused on constructing an executive compensation program that will best serve the specific needs of Deluxe and the interests of our shareholders, we believe our program incorporates a responsible approach to pay structure, risk management and transparency.

#### **Table of Contents**

The Committee has engaged, and regularly meets with, an independent compensation consultant regarding executive compensation levels and practices. Towers Watson has served as the Committee's independent consultant since 2001. This consultant is deemed independent in that it is selected by, and reports directly to, the Committee with its primary contact being the Chair of the Committee. The Committee regularly meets with Towers Watson in executive session without management present and conducts an annual review of the consultant relationship. Towers Watson did not provide to the Company any consulting services on subjects other than executive compensation during 2010.

Management supports the work of the Committee and its independent consultant by providing Company information and data, as requested. Company executives also make recommendations with respect to incentive plan targets in the context of management's business and operational plans. At the request of the Committee, the CEO attended each Committee meeting, met with the Committee and independent consultant as necessary to discuss business strategy, and also meets with the Committee annually to discuss each executive's individual performance and make recommendations on incentive awards and adjustments to base salary for those executives. The Board's non-employee directors evaluate the CEO each year and the Committee provides recommendations to the Board regarding the CEO's compensation based on that evaluation and current market data provided by the independent consultants.

#### Competitive Market Review

For 2010, the Committee commissioned Towers Watson to provide a competitive market review of Deluxe's executive compensation program in comparison to relevant information drawn from other companies' executive compensation practices. The data presented by Towers Watson was used for analyzing the following: the nature, merit and recommended value of each pay component; the mix of base pay, annual incentive compensation, and long-term incentive values for the Named Executive Officers; and other benefit-related decisions. Based on the recommendation of its compensation consultant, the Committee reviewed two sources of information for assessing executive pay at Deluxe. The first source of comparative information included executive compensation data for the S&P Mid-Cap 400 given that Deluxe is a member of the S&P Mid-Cap 400 index, together with the Committee's conclusion that this index is representative of companies similar to Deluxe in terms of market capitalization, revenue, and total assets. The S&P Mid-Cap 400 data is based on proxy statement disclosures for the index companies' Named Executive Officers. Towers Watson also analyzed market data drawn from three published broad-based third-party surveys of general industry compensation practices, including the 2010/2011 Towers Watson Top Management Survey; 2010 Mercer Executive Compensation Survey; and 2010 Towers Watson Executive Compensation Survey. Towers Watson screened the compensation databases for the most similar position content for each of Deluxe's executive positions. Given that Deluxe does not have access to the identity of individual survey respondents and that the reporting companies vary widely in size, Towers Watson does not benchmark Deluxe's practices against specific companies' practices within the survey pool but rather adjusts the survey data for size of company (i.e., revenue) using regression analysis. Applying this methodology can help statistically predict the level of compensation that a company of a given size in revenue would pay for a given job. The Committee used the information derived from the regression analysis as a general data point in assessing the reasonableness of the Company's compensation practices.

#### **Executive Officer Compensation Program**

In constructing an overall compensation program, the Committee balances those components that are fixed (such as salary and benefits) against components that are variable and require the achievement of certain levels of performance. The Committee also strives for a balance between compensation components that reward executives for the achievement of short-term goals with those that focus on the long-term growth of the Company. Compared to Deluxe's general employee population, the Committee believes that executives, including the Named Executive Officers, should have a greater percentage of their total compensation dependant upon reaching performance targets, a

higher percentage of which is oriented toward long-term objectives rather than short-term performance. Each year the Committee reviews the form and value of long-term incentive grants to ensure alignment with the Company's overall compensation philosophy and to reward attainment of Company goals.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### Elements of Compensation

For 2010, the principal components of our executive compensation program consisted of the following, each of which is addressed below in greater detail:

• base salary;

annual incentive plan;

- long-term incentives in the form of stock options and a multi-year cash performance plan;
  - non-qualified deferred compensation plan;
  - broad-based defined contribution retirement plans; and
    - cash allowance program in lieu of perquisites.

#### Compensation Mix

The primary components of executive compensation (base salary, and performance-based pay opportunities in the form of annual and long-term incentives) for our Named Executive Officers in 2010 were allocated, at targeted levels of performance, to provide a higher weighting on performance-based pay compared to base salary. The average target percentage of performance-based pay for the Named Executive Officers is 64 percent of total compensation, with a higher percentage for the CEO. Of the total performance-based compensation for the Named Executive Officers, approximately 63 percent is targeted to be long-term compensation as opposed to annual compensation. Pay practices for the Named Executive Officers emphasize pay-for-performance and the achievement of longer term Company objectives than pay practices for the general employee population.

The Company uses pay-for-performance principles throughout its compensation program. Adjustments in base pay are linked to performance through the annual performance evaluation process, with salary increase guidelines structured to provide greater base pay increases for those who achieve higher than satisfactory performance ratings and lower increases, if any, for those who perform at a satisfactory level or below. The Deluxe Corporation Annual Incentive Plan ("Annual Incentive Plan") and long-term cash performance plan are similarly structured to provide an opportunity to earn a higher payout for performance above target and lower payouts, if any, for performance at less than target. The use of stock options as a component of the 2010 long-term incentive program also aligns our pay principles to long-term changes in shareholder value. In addition, our Named Executive Officers are subject to stock ownership and sale guidelines, which restrict their ability to realize value from their equity awards unless they have achieved their ownership targets.

While the design of our executive compensation program is significantly performance-based, we do not believe it encourages excessive risk-taking. We believe the combination of compensation elements in the program provides the Named Executive Officers with the appropriate incentives to create long-term value for shareholders by taking thoughtful and prudent actions to grow the Company. In 2010, the financial metrics used in the Annual Incentive Plan were operating income and revenue targets, with any payment under the revenue metric being subject to the achievement of a minimum operating income threshold. Payments under the long-term cash performance plan also are tied to minimum profitability requirements. Each year the Board of Directors reviews the operating plan that forms the basis for the financial performance factors incorporated into the variable compensation plans. This review by the entire Board helps ensure that the targets established under our incentive compensation plans incorporate a

reasonable degree of stretch, while at the same time promoting a focus on long-term growth and sustainable financial performance. As addressed below, our executives also are subject to stock ownership guidelines and clawback policies, both of which serve as further checks against imprudent, short-term decision-making.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **Base Salaries**

Base salaries are a fixed portion of compensation based on an individual's skills, responsibilities, experience and sustained performance. The Committee annually reviews the base salaries of Deluxe's Named Executive Officers. The CEO makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee for changes to base salaries based on each executive's individual performance and the market data presented by the Committee's independent compensation consultants. The Committee performs the same analysis with respect to the CEO's salary with input from the evaluation of the CEO's performance by the Board's non-employee directors. Base salaries of our executive officers generally are set at or near the median of salaries paid to executive officers of companies of similar size and in similar positions. Deviations from the median can be the result of experience in the position, individual performance exceeding or falling short of expectations, or the individual's scope of responsibilities. For 2010, and consistent with a broad-based salary freeze implemented throughout the Company, none of the Named Executive Officers received a base salary increase, except Mr. McRoberts, who received an increase in his compensation upon being promoted to Senior Vice President, Chief Information & Technology Officer and an expansion of his responsibilities. The actual change for Mr. McRoberts is reflected in the Summary Compensation Table.

#### Annual Incentive Plan

The Annual Incentive Plan provides an incentive for achieving specified financial performance goals that the Company considers to be important contributors to shareholder value. Named Executive Officers and other officers and management employees selected by the Committee participate in the Annual Incentive Plan. The 2010 target amounts approved by the Committee under the Annual Incentive Plan were intended to provide annual cash compensation (i.e., base salary plus bonus) approximating the median of the cash compensation offered to executive officers of companies of similar size and in similar positions. Bonuses earned may exceed the target amount if performance goals are exceeded, and are less than the target amount if the performance goals are not fully attained, with no bonus payouts if Deluxe's performance is below certain minimum thresholds.

Consistent with the approach taken in 2009, the 2010 Annual Incentive Plan consisted of three components. The first two components were based on the Company's performance against specific revenue and operating metrics. The third component consisted of a group of factors ("enterprise factors") developed to assess the Company's progress in transforming Deluxe consistent with its strategic growth initiatives. Plan participants with specific business segment responsibilities had a portion of their bonus opportunity tied to the segment's financial results as well as consolidated results.

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code ("Section 162(m)") places limits on the deductibility of compensation paid to certain executives that is not considered performance-based. In order to ensure that all payments to our executives under the Annual Incentive Plan qualify as performance-based compensation for purposes of Section 162(m), a bonus pool based on the amount of net income (if any) generated by Deluxe during 2010 was established by the Committee at the beginning of the year, along with the maximum payments that could be allocated to each executive subject to Section 162(m). Payments made to these executives were based on the performance criteria applicable to other participants under the Plan, and all such payments were less than the maximum amounts allocated to the executives under the Section 162(m) bonus pool.

In addition, in order to promote stock ownership by the Named Executive Officers and other participants, and to further align their interests with those of our shareholders, participants may choose to receive up to 100 percent of their Annual Incentive Plan payout in restricted stock units, in which case the Company will provide a 50 percent match on the amounts so elected to be received in restricted stock units. The restricted stock units vest on the second anniversary of the date of the grant. We believe the 50 percent match and two-year vesting period encourage

executive stock ownership and employee retention.

#### **Table of Contents**

Performance Measures and Objectives under the Annual Incentive Plan

For the Named Executive Officers and all other participants, the three components that were considered in determining incentive compensation for 2010 under the Annual Incentive Plan were adjusted revenue, adjusted operating income and the enterprise factors. "Adjusted revenue" and "adjusted operating income" are based on revenue and operating income as publicly reported by the Company in its consolidated financial statements, but include pre-defined adjustments (as permitted by Section 162(m)) to eliminate the effects of items that are not a part of the operating plan or are beyond management's control, such as the adoption of new accounting principles, asset impairments, certain mergers and acquisitions, restructuring charges, etc. The enterprise factors used in 2010 were intended to serve as leading indicators of the Company's success in executing its growth strategy and to supplement the financial performance metrics. The enterprise factors included a collection of key initiatives and performance indicators intended to assess the Company's performance in the following areas:

- Executing a long-term strategic plan to accelerate revenue growth and deliver an enhanced customer experience;
  - Developing a leadership pipeline/high performing culture in a collaborative environment; and
    - Improving business processes.

As indicated above, the Committee also retains discretion to make other adjustments to the financial measurement calculations, provided such adjustments do not result in the payment to any Named Executive Officer in excess of their applicable Section 162(m) bonus allocation. We believe revenue, operating income and the enterprise factors are critical drivers of our strategy to achieve profitable and sustainable revenue growth, and thereby create long-term value for our shareholders. Each component was weighted as shown on the next page, with revenue and operating income target performance set in accordance with the Company's annual operating plan ("AOP") targets. These AOP targets also served as the basis for the financial performance expectations communicated publicly at the beginning of the year.

In establishing the metrics and payout scales for 2010 under the Annual Incentive Plan, the weighting attached to adjusted revenue was increased and the weighting attached to adjusted operating income was correspondingly decreased over 2009 in order to reinforce the Company's intention to incent revenue growth. At the same time, we continued to require that a minimum threshold of adjusted operating income be achieved before payments could be made under the adjusted revenue and operating income performance factors. We believe this minimum threshold is an effective control on imprudent decision-making, in that it ensures that the revenue growth achieved by the Company is profitable. Adjusted operating income and revenue targets for the Annual Incentive Plan in 2010 were set at aggressive but realistic levels. Given the challenges presented by the economy in general, as well as the specific challenges confronted by small businesses and the secular decline in the core check industry, the Company sought to balance its focus on growth with the need to establish financial performance targets for the year that would afford realistically-achievable incentive opportunities for its employees, while at the same time requiring solid returns to its shareholders. As a result, while the target adjusted revenue for 2010 was the same as the Company's actual 2009 adjusted revenue, the adjusted operating income target for 2010 was adjusted upward from the target in 2009, and a slightly higher threshold level of adjusted operating income than in 2009 was required to be achieved in order for there to be any payout on either the adjusted revenue or operating income factors. The increase in required adjusted operating income before payout under the Annual Incentive Plan meant that the adjusted revenue achieved needed to be converted into income with greater efficiency in 2010 than in 2009 in order to receive any payout, and, within the ranges resulting in payout, at an increasing rate of return. The following table illustrates the 2010 threshold and maximum performance levels compared to targets for the adjusted revenue and operating income factors, as well as the corresponding payout percentages (versus the target award opportunity) at each level of performance.

#### **Table of Contents**

Performance Level	Adjusted Operating Income	Adjusted Revenue	Percent of Target Award (%)
Maximum	115.5% of AOP	106.4% of AOP	200%
Target	AOP	AOP	100%
Threshold	85.5% of AOP	94.1% of AOP	50%
Below Threshold			0%

#### Actual Annual Incentive Plan Payments

Deluxe's consolidated performance in 2010 well exceeded the threshold performance levels for both adjusted operating income and revenue. As indicated above, for 2010, the Committee also established enterprise factors as a component of performance to be measured in assessing payments to be made under the Annual Incentive Plan. After assessing the Company's performance on the various metrics established for the enterprise factors, the Committee determined that participants should be awarded a payout of 90 percent of target for that component. The actual 2010 performance on all three components is summarized in the following table.

					Payout	
	Target	Actual	Weighting		Percent (%	of
Measures (Thousands)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)		target)	
Adjusted Operating Income	\$ 255,000	\$ 267,820	26.7	%	132.5	%
Adjusted Revenue	\$ 1,344,000	\$ 1,324,013	40.0	%	92.4	%
Enterprise Factors			33.3	%	90.0	%
Blended Payout Percentage					102.3	%

As indicated above, executive officers with specific business segment responsibilities also have a portion of their Annual Incentive Plan opportunity tied to the performance of their segment's adjusted revenue and operating income. Of the Named Executive Officers, only Mr. Morefield had a portion of his Annual Incentive Plan opportunity tied to business segment performance. Business segment performance is evaluated on the basis of adjusted revenue and adjusted segment controllable operating income, which is adjusted segment operating income after removing allocations of corporate overhead costs. The Financial Services segment, for which Mr. Morefield is responsible, delivered adjusted revenue at 94.4% of the targeted level of \$403,857, and adjusted controllable operating income at 89.0% of the targeted level of \$162,350. The associated payout percentages at these levels of performance were 72.4% and 50.6%, respectively. With 30% of his incentive opportunity based on segment revenue results, 20% based on adjusted controllable operating income results for the segment, and 50% based on the consolidated performance reflected in the foregoing table, Mr. Morefield's blended payout percentage was 83.0%, a portion of which Mr. Morefield has chosen to allocate to restricted stock units. The amounts earned by all Named Executive Officers under the Annual Incentive Plan for 2010 are included in the Summary Compensation Table appearing later in this proxy statement.

# Long-Term Incentive Compensation

After analyzing a variety of approaches for delivering long-term incentive value to the Named Executive Officers and other key employees who participate in the Company's long-term incentive program, for 2010 the Committee continued to endorse a strategy that employed a combination of stock options and a long-term cash incentive program based on achievement of multi-year performance factors ("Cash Performance Plan"). The targeted value of awards granted to participants in the long-term incentive program for 2010 consisted of 60% stock options and 40% Cash Performance Plan awards. In order to incent service revenue growth in areas other than the sale of checks and related products, the Cash Performance Plan awards incorporate performance targets based on success in achieving Deluxe's

service revenue goal in 2012. To reach the 2012 revenue goals, Deluxe must make significant progress in each year of a three year performance period. The payout amount can vary from 0% to 200% of the total Cash Performance Plan award value depending upon the performance level achieved by the end of the 2012 fiscal year. For 2011, the structure of the Cash Performance Plan remains substantially the same.

#### **Table of Contents**

The Company's 2009 Cash Performance Plan (referred to as the "2009 Plan") had a two year performance period that expired at the end of 2010. The 2009 Plan represented 60 percent of the long-term incentive program targeted value (with the remaining 40 percent of the targeted value provided through stock options). The 2009 Plan focused attention on growth of new revenue other than revenue from the sale of checks and check-related products, coupled with a profitability threshold to ensure the quality of this revenue growth and otherwise manage risk associated with revenue-based metrics. The metrics and payout scales for the 2009 Plan are shown below:

	Adjusted Non-Check Revenue	Payout % of Target Award
Performance Level	Mix Performance %	Amount
Maximum	45%	200%
Target	41%	100%
Threshold (minimum)	37%	75%

Margin on Operating Income Threshold: 16%

"Adjusted non-check revenue mix" is a percentage resulting from revenue as reported by the Company in its consolidated financial statements, including pre-defined adjustments (permitted by 162(m)) to eliminate the effects of items that are not a part of the AOP or are beyond management's control, from which is then subtracted reported "check and related services revenue," the result of which is divided by adjusted revenue. "Margin on operating income" is a percentage resulting from adjusted operating income divided by adjusted revenue.

The Committee determined that the profitability and revenue thresholds were achieved. Adjusted non-check revenue mix was calculated to be 37.8%. Interpolating these results under the foregoing table, eligible participants will receive a payout of 80.1% of their targeted incentive opportunity on or before March 15, 2012. If still employed by the Company through December 31, 2011, Mr. Schram would receive \$720,900, Mr. Scarfone would receive \$168,210, Mr. Peterson would receive \$72,090, Mr. Morefield would receive \$84,105 and Mr. McRoberts would receive \$84,105. Given that the 2009 Plan was designed to incorporate a talent retention element, employees who voluntarily terminate their employment and those whose employment is involuntarily terminated for cause prior to January 1, 2012, are not eligible for any payout under the 2009 Plan.

As mentioned above, in 2010, the Named Executive Officers, together with other designated key employees, also received stock option grants as part of the long-term incentive program. These options have a three year vesting period. The grant date for the options coincided with the regularly scheduled February Compensation Committee meeting. The timing of the annual grants also aligns with the employee performance evaluation process and is outside any regular stock trading blackout period. The exercise price of all 2010 option grants was the closing price of Deluxe stock on the grant date. The Company believes this strategy achieves several critical objectives, including:

- Supporting and rewarding the achievement of Deluxe's long-term business strategy and objectives;
  - Encouraging decisions and behavior that will increase shareholder value;

#### **Table of Contents**

- Reinforcing the pay-for-performance orientation of the overall executive compensation program;
- Allowing Deluxe to attract and retain key executive talent by providing competitive incentive and total compensation opportunities; and
- Promoting share ownership and facilitating achievement of the ownership guidelines. All long-term incentive equity awards to the Named Executive Officers and other key employees are granted on the same date, with the exception of awards made in conjunction with an individual's promotion or hire into the Company, or as necessary to facilitate broader retention of key employees.

# Deferred Compensation Plan

The Deluxe Corporation Deferred Compensation Plan is intended to promote executive retention by providing a long-term savings opportunity on a tax-efficient basis. Under this plan, which complies with the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code ("Section 409A"), Named Executive Officers and other key employees may choose to defer up to 100 percent of base salary (less applicable deductions) and up to 50 percent of any Annual Incentive Plan payout into multiple investment options. This plan also contains a provision that restores benefits lost under the defined contribution pension plan and the annual profit sharing plan due to Internal Revenue Code limits. Contributions for the Named Executive Officers under this provision for 2010 are reflected in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table. The investment options are similar to the investment options available to employees in the Company's broad-based retirement plans. The majority of payouts from this plan commence following termination of employment, based on elections made by the participants in accordance with, and subject to, any delays in payment that otherwise might be required by Section 409A.

#### Retirement Program

The Named Executive Officers are eligible to participate in the same qualified broad-based retirement plans that are available to most employees. The program consists of three components, including a defined contribution pension plan, an annual profit sharing plan (under which contributions, if any, are based on Deluxe's performance), and a 401(k) plan. The retirement program is regularly compared with retirement programs of companies that are in businesses similar to Deluxe and/or are located in geographic areas from which we recruit talent to ensure that the Company remains competitive in the market. The incremental value of benefits provided to the Named Executive Officers under this program is included in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

# Personal Choice Program

All of our Named Executive Officers, with the exception of our CEO, Mr. Schram, participated in the executive officer Personal Choice Program. The Personal Choice Program provides a fixed cash allowance to participating Named Executive Officers in lieu of any other perquisites. The quarterly cash allowance of \$7,500 for Senior Vice Presidents and \$5,000 for Vice Presidents on the Executive Leadership Team is intended to cover personal expenses typically incurred by executives as a result of their positions (such as financial and tax planning, vehicle mileage, etc.). No gross-ups are provided on the amounts paid under this program. As with the other compensation components, this program is assessed against general market data regarding perquisite programs on an annual basis. The Company chose this program structure as being more flexible for the executives, less administratively burdensome, and less costly to the organization.

# Stock Ownership Guidelines

Deluxe has established stock ownership guidelines for its Named Executive Officers and independent Board members. The Committee annually reviews each executive officer's and director's progress toward attaining his or her ownership target. The current target for the CEO is five times (5x) annual base salary, for all Senior Vice Presidents is two times (2x) annual base salary and for Vice Presidents who are members of the Executive Leadership Team is one-and-one-half times  $(1 \frac{1}{2}x)$  annual base salary. The guidelines call for the targeted level of ownership to be achieved within five years of the later of the date the ownership guidelines were implemented, or the time the individual becomes an executive officer or is promoted to a higher level executive office. For purposes of calculating an executive's stock ownership under these guidelines, stock options are not included. While restricted stock and restricted stock units convertible into shares are included, only 60 percent of their value is counted toward the ownership target prior to vesting, based on the rationale that approximately 40 percent of such shares or units will be withheld or surrendered by the executive upon vesting to cover taxes. In the past twelve months executives continued to increase their actual share ownership. The Committee determined that it would continue to review the stock ownership guidelines on an annual basis.

#### **Table of Contents**

In addition to the stock ownership guidelines, the Named Executive Officers and Board of Directors are subject to share retention and holding period requirements. Under this policy, individuals who have not achieved their ownership targets must retain 75 percent of the net shares (i.e., shares remaining after exercise costs and applicable taxes are covered) upon the exercise of stock options and vesting of other equity awards, and are required to hold the shares until the ownership targets are met. The Company also maintains a general policy against transactions by directors and executive officers intended to hedge the economic risk of ownership in Deluxe stock, and requires any such hedging transactions to be pre-approved by the Board's Corporate Governance Committee.

#### **Clawback Practices**

For several years, Deluxe has maintained clawback provisions in its equity agreements, which can be triggered for a broad range of misconduct by the award recipient. During 2009, the Company extended its clawback policy to cover the recoupment of annual bonuses and other incentive awards, including awards under the Annual Incentive Plan and Cash Performance Plan, granted to Securities Exchange Act Section 16 officers. This extended policy took effect with awards granted in 2010, and covers situations where misconduct by the executive contributes to a restatement of the Company's financial statements. While the Company had adopted and broadened its clawback policy prior to the passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (referred to as the "Dodd-Frank Act"), the policy will be amended consistent with forthcoming regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act after they are published.

# Severance, Retention and Change of Control Arrangements

Deluxe maintains severance arrangements or agreements with each of its Named Executive Officers (collectively "arrangements"). The arrangements are intended to facilitate the executives' attention to the affairs of Deluxe and to recognize their key role within the Company. If their employment is terminated without "cause" by Deluxe or by the executive with "good reason," he or she is eligible to receive severance pay and benefits. The Severance Calculations table appearing later in this proxy statement, together with the accompanying narrative to that table, explains in detail the benefits provided under these arrangements and the circumstances under which such a Named Executive Officer would be eligible for severance benefits. Receipt of these benefits is conditioned upon the Named Executive Officer entering into a release and agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of Company confidential information for a period of two years after their termination. Mr. Schram's employment agreement also requires that for two years after he ceases to be employed by Deluxe, he will not engage in any business that competes with Deluxe, will not hire any Deluxe employee or induce an employee to provide confidential information to a third party, and will not induce any customer or supplier to stop doing business with the Company.

The Company also maintains retention agreements ("Retention Agreements") with those current executives who became executive officers prior to 2010. The Retention Agreements are addressed in greater detail in the narrative accompanying the Change of Control Calculations table appearing later in this proxy statement. Generally speaking, however, these Retention Agreements provide incentives for the executive officer to remain with Deluxe through a change of control, and provide certain benefits in the event the executive officer's employment is negatively impacted as a result of, or following, a change of control. In other words, benefits are not paid out automatically upon a change of control, but only if such executive officer's employment is negatively affected (i.e., a double trigger). Moreover, the severance arrangements described above do not apply if the executive officer's employment is terminated following a change of control under circumstances that would entitle them to receive benefits under the Retention Agreements. The Retention Agreements comply with Section 409A, have a renewable term of two years, place a limit on tax gross-up payments, and provide a payment multiple of three times salary and bonus for the CEO, two times for Senior Vice Presidents, and one time for Vice Presidents on the Executive Leadership Team. No new Retention Agreements were entered into by the Company during 2010, nor were any pre-existing Retention Agreements

materially amended during the year.

#### **Table of Contents**

Compliance with Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits the deductibility of compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to certain executive officers, unless such compensation qualifies as "performance-based compensation." Among other things, in order to be deemed performance-based compensation for Section 162(m) purposes, the compensation must be based on the achievement of pre-established, objective performance criteria and must be pursuant to a plan that has been approved by Deluxe's shareholders. With the exception of a small portion of the compensation paid to Mr. Schram, we expect that all compensation paid in 2010 to the executive officers under the plans and programs described above will qualify for deductibility, either because the compensation is below the threshold for non-deductibility provided in Section 162(m) or because the payment of such compensation complies with the performance-based compensation provisions of Section 162(m).

The Company believes that it is important to continue to be able to take all available tax deductions with respect to the compensation paid to its executive officers, and has taken such actions as may be necessary to continue to qualify significant portions of executive compensation as performance-based under Section 162(m).

#### Compensation Committee Report

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Based on our review and discussion with management, we have recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement and be incorporated by reference into Deluxe Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

MEMBERS OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Don J. McGrath, Chair Charles A. Haggerty Neil J. Metviner Stephen P. Nachtsheim

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **Executive Compensation Tables**

The Summary Compensation Table, 2010 All Other Compensation Supplemental Table, and Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2010 Table presented on the following pages summarize the total compensation paid to or earned by our Named Executive Officers, which include (i) each of the individuals who served as Deluxe's Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer during any part of 2010, and (ii) the next three most highly compensated individuals serving as executive officers at the end of the year. The following narrative is provided to help you understand the information presented in those tables.

The base salaries of Named Executive Officers were generally set at or near the median for executive officers of the S&P Mid-Cap 400 companies in similar positions. Where comparable salary data could not be derived from proxy information filed by S&P Mid-Cap 400 companies, data derived from broad-based compensation surveys, appropriately adjusted through the use of regression analysis, was considered by the Compensation Committee. The Named Executive Officers participate in the Company's Annual Incentive Plan, under which bonuses can be earned based on pre-established performance criteria. For 2010, these criteria included adjusted revenue, adjusted operating income and a pre-defined set of initiatives developed to support the Company's growth strategy. As discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement, the Compensation Committee determined that the Company exceeded the threshold levels of performance established for the various criteria, and therefore approved Annual Incentive Plan payments for 2010.

All of the Named Executive Officers participate in a long-term incentive compensation program, pursuant to which they were awarded stock options and cash performance awards that provide for future pay-outs based upon longer term financial metrics. The target value of the program approximates the median of long-term incentive compensation provided to executive officers in the S&P Mid-Cap 400 group of companies. The awards to Named Executive Officers under the program were granted on the same day as awards to all eligible employees. The exercise price for each option grant is the closing price of Deluxe's stock on the grant date. The options vest annually in three equal installments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date. The remainder of the long-term incentive value for 2010 is delivered in a cash performance plan. The cash performance plan employs a three-year performance period, and measures non-check services revenue as a percent of total revenue combined with a threshold measure of profitability before any amount over the minimum award can be earned. The cash performance plan is paid-out after the third anniversary of the grant date. The two-year performance period for the 2009 cash performance plan (2009 Plan) expired at the end of 2010. The 2009 Plan measured non-check revenue as a percent of total revenue, combined with a threshold measure of profitability. The Committee concluded that the Company exceeded the threshold for performance for the 2009 Plan and approved payments to be made under that plan. However, as discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement, such payments will not be made until 2012 and are subject to forfeiture prior to that time if the executive leaves the Company or is terminated for cause.

The Named Executive Officers, other than the CEO, also participate in a program that provides a quarterly cash allowance for personal expenses typically incurred by executives, as discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement.

# Table of Contents

# SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

				Non-Equity Incentive				
		Salary	Bonus1	Stock Awards2	Option	Plan	All Other ompensation5	Total
Name	Year	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Lee J. Schram Chief Executive	2010	785,000	0	0	918,182	803,114	81,915	2,588,211
Officer	2009	785,000	0	0	465,617	719,809	153,615	2,124,041
	2008	780,000	0	1,079,898	579,606	0	164,942	2,604,446
Anthony C.								
Scarfone Senior Vice	2010	335,000	0	549,990	213,691	205,638	81,020	1,385,339
President, General Counsel	2009	335,000	0	0	108,466	184,308	63,618	691,392
& Secretary	2008	332,500	0	168,644	135,274	0	71,538	707,956
Secretary								
Terry D. Peterson6	2010	335,000	0	185,054	275,041	82,276	63,794	941,165
Senior Vice President & Chief Financial	2009	303,333	0	127,559	46,365	36,460	44,800	558,517
Officer	2008	294,873	0	58,552	57,763	0	49,273	460,461
Thomas L. Morefield Senior Vice	2010 2009	275,000 275,000	0 137,500	85,593 0	106,845 54,233	57,089 144,639	53,775 53,004	578,302 664,376
President, Financial	2008	263,958	0	71,582	71,450	0	36,847	443,837
Services								
Malcolm J.McRoberts7	2010	256,250	0	0	106,845	131,081	99,842	594,018
Senior Vice President, Chief Information & Technology	2009	250,000	0	0	54,233	114,619	160,960	579,812
reciliology								