

CHOICEPOINT INC  
Form DEF 14A  
March 19, 2004

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**SCHEDULE 14A  
(Rule 14a-101)**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities**

**Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under Rule 14a-12

ChoicePoint Inc.

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed 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:

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(4) Date Filed:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**ChoicePoint Inc.**

**1000 Alderman Drive  
Alpharetta, Georgia 30005**

March 19, 2004

Dear Shareholders,

You are cordially invited to attend the 2004 annual meeting of shareholders of ChoicePoint Inc., which will be held at ChoicePoint's principal executive offices, 1000 Alderman Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia, on Thursday, April 29, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., local time.

Information concerning the meeting, the nominees for the board of directors and other business to be conducted at the meeting is contained in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and related Proxy Statement which follow.

It is important that your shares be represented at the meeting in order for the presence of a quorum to be assured and for your vote to be counted. Please return your signed proxy promptly, whether or not you plan to attend the meeting. You also may also vote by telephone or via the Internet by following the instructions on your proxy card. Your vote is very important to ChoicePoint.

We appreciate your support in helping ChoicePoint create a safer, more secure society through the responsible use of information. On behalf of the officers and directors of ChoicePoint, we wish to thank you for your continuing confidence in ChoicePoint.

DEREK V. SMITH  
*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

Alpharetta, Georgia  
March 19, 2004

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN YOUR PROXY OR VOTE BY TELEPHONE OR BY THE INTERNET.**

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**CHOICEPOINT INC.**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**  
**To Be Held on April 29, 2004**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ChoicePoint Inc. will hold the annual meeting of its shareholders on Thursday, April 29, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. local time, for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect one director for a term expiring in 2005 and two directors for terms expiring in 2007;
- (2) To approve the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan;
- (3) To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants; and
- (4) To transact any other business properly brought before the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The board of directors is not currently aware of any other matters that will come before the annual meeting. Only ChoicePoint shareholders of record at the close of business on March 10, 2004 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the annual meeting in person, you are urged to vote promptly by dating, signing and returning the enclosed proxy in the accompanying envelope, or by voting by telephone or via the Internet as instructed on your proxy card.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

DAVID W. DAVIS  
*Corporate Secretary*

Alpharetta, Georgia  
March 19, 2004

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**CHOICEPOINT INC.**

**1000 Alderman Drive  
Alpharetta, Georgia 30005**

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**PROXY STATEMENT**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
To be Held April 29, 2004**

The 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of ChoicePoint Inc. ( ChoicePoint or the Company ) will be held on April 29, 2004, at ChoicePoint's corporate headquarters, located at 1000 Alderman Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005, beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m., local time. The enclosed form of proxy is solicited by our board of directors. It is anticipated that this proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card will first be mailed to holders of our common stock on or about March 19, 2004.

**ABOUT THE MEETING**

**Why am I receiving this proxy statement and proxy card?**

You are receiving this proxy statement and proxy card because you own shares of common stock in ChoicePoint Inc. This proxy statement describes issues on which we would like you, as a shareholder, to vote. It also gives you information on these issues so that you can make an informed decision.

When you vote you appoint Derek V. Smith, Douglas C. Curling and David W. Davis as your representatives at the annual meeting. Messrs. Smith, Curling and Davis will vote your shares, as you have instructed them on the proxy card, at the annual meeting. This way, your shares will be voted whether or not you attend the annual meeting. Even if you plan to attend the annual meeting, it is a good idea to vote in advance of the annual meeting in case your plans change.

If an issue comes up for vote at the annual meeting that is not on the proxy card, Messrs. Smith, Curling and Davis will vote your shares, under your proxy, in accordance with their best judgment.

**What am I voting on?**

You are being asked to vote on (1) the election of one director for a term expiring in 2005 and two directors for terms expiring in 2007, (2) approval of the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan and (3) the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent public accountants. No cumulative voting rights are authorized and dissenters' rights are not applicable to these matters.

**Who is entitled to vote?**

Shareholders as of the close of business on March 10, 2004 are entitled to vote. This is referred to as the record date. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote.

**How do I vote?**

*You may vote by mail.* You do this by signing your proxy card and mailing it in the enclosed, prepaid and addressed envelope.

*You may vote by telephone.* You do this by calling the toll-free telephone number on your proxy card or vote instruction form on a touch-tone phone. Be sure to have your proxy card or vote instruction form available. If you hold your shares in the name of a bank or broker, your ability to vote by telephone depends on their voting processes. Please follow the directions on your proxy card carefully.

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*You may vote by the Internet.* You do this by visiting the Internet site at [HTTP://WWW.VOTEFAST.COM](http://www.voteFAST.com). If you hold your shares in the name of a bank or broker, your ability to vote by the Internet depends on their voting processes. Please follow the directions on your proxy card carefully.

*You may also vote in person at the annual meeting.* Written ballots will be available to anyone who wants to vote at the annual meeting. If you hold your shares in street name (through a broker or other nominee, such as a bank), you must request a legal proxy from your stockbroker in order to vote at the annual meeting.

**How many shares represented do you need to hold the annual meeting?**

As of March 10, 2004, 88,027,634 shares of common stock were issued and outstanding. Holders of a majority of the outstanding shares as of the record date, equal to 44,013,818 shares, must be present at the annual meeting either in person or by proxy in order to hold the meeting and conduct business. This is called a quorum.

**What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?**

It means that you have multiple accounts at the transfer agent and/or with brokers. Please vote all proxy cards to ensure that all your shares are voted. You may wish to consolidate as many of your transfer agent or brokerage accounts as possible under the same name and address for better customer service.

**What if I change my mind after I return my proxy?**

You may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the polls close at the meeting. You may do this by:

sending written notice to our corporate secretary at 1000 Alderman Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005;

signing another proxy with a later date; or

voting again at the annual meeting.

**How may I vote for the nominees for election of director?**

With respect to the election of nominees for director, you may:

vote FOR the election of the three nominees for director;

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to vote for the three nominees; or

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to vote for one or more of the nominees and vote FOR the remaining nominee or nominees.

**How many votes must the nominees for election as director receive to be elected?**

If a quorum is present at the meeting, the nominee that receives the greatest number of affirmative votes of the nominees for a term expiring in 2005 and the two nominees receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes of all nominees for a term expiring in 2007, known as a plurality, will be elected to serve as directors. Shares that are not voted and shares for which votes are withheld will not affect the outcome of the election for directors. Withholding authority to vote for a particular nominee will not prevent that nominee from being elected.



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**What happens if a nominee is unable to stand for election?**

The board of directors may, by resolution, provide for a lesser number of directors or designate a substitute nominee. In the latter event, shares represented by proxies may be voted for a substitute nominee.

**How may I vote for approval of the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan?**

With respect to the proposal to approve the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan, you may:

vote FOR the proposal;

vote AGAINST the proposal; or

ABSTAIN from voting on the proposal.

**How many votes must the approval of the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan receive to pass?**

If a quorum is present at the annual meeting, the approval of the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on this proposal. Abstentions are neither counted as votes cast for or against this proposal and, as a result, have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

**How may I vote for the ratification of the appointment of the independent public accountants?**

With respect to the proposal to ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as ChoicePoint's independent public accountants for fiscal year 2004, you may:

vote FOR ratification;

vote AGAINST ratification; or

ABSTAIN from voting on the proposal.

**How many votes must the ratification of the appointment of the independent public accountants receive to pass?**

If a quorum is present at the annual meeting, the ratification of the appointment of the independent public accountants must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on this proposal. Abstentions are neither counted as votes cast for or against this proposal and, as a result, have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

**What happens if I sign and return my proxy card but do not provide voting instructions?**

If you return a signed proxy card but do not provide voting instructions, your shares will be voted FOR the three named director nominees and FOR the ratification of the appointment of the independent public accountants and FOR the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan. If you mark your voting instructions on the proxy card, your shares will be voted as you instruct.

**Will my shares be voted if I do not sign and return my proxy card?**

If your shares are held in street name, your brokerage firm may vote your shares under certain circumstances. These circumstances include certain routine matters, such as the election of directors and the ratification of independent public accountants. Therefore, if you do not vote your proxy, your brokerage firm may either vote your shares on routine matters or leave your shares unvoted. When a brokerage firm votes its customers' unvoted shares on routine matters, these shares are also counted for purposes of establishing a quorum to conduct business at the meeting.

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A brokerage firm cannot vote customers' shares on non-routine matters such as the approval of the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan. Therefore, if your shares are held in street name and you do not vote your proxy, your shares will not be voted on this non-routine matter. These broker non-votes are counted for purposes of establishing a quorum; however, they are neither counted as votes cast for or against a matter presented for shareholder consideration and, as a result, have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

**Where do I find the voting results of the meeting?**

We will announce preliminary voting results at the meeting and will publish the final results in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the second quarter of fiscal 2004. The report will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), and you will be able to get a copy by contacting our corporate secretary at (770) 752-6000, the SEC at (800) SEC-0330 for the location of the nearest public reference room, through our web site at [www.choicepoint.com](http://www.choicepoint.com) or the SEC's EDGAR system at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The ChoicePoint board of directors represents the shareholders' interests in achieving a successful business and increasing shareholder value in long-term financial returns and has always been committed to the highest level of corporate governance. The board has a responsibility to its shareholders, employees, customers, and to the communities where it operates, to ensure that the Company operates with the highest professional, ethical, legal and socially responsible standards and to use information responsibly to create a safer, more secure society.

Since becoming a public company, the ChoicePoint board of directors has always been comprised of a majority of independent directors, as now required by the New York Stock Exchange listing standards. In July 2002, the board of directors created the position of lead director, whose primary responsibility is to preside over the regular executive sessions of the board of directors in which management directors and other members of management do not participate. The non-management directors elected Thomas M. Coughlin as lead director to preside over the executive sessions.

The board of directors has determined that all of the directors are independent under the New York Stock Exchange listing standards, with the exception of Derek V. Smith and Douglas C. Curling, both of whom are considered inside directors because of their employment with the Company.

The ChoicePoint Corporate Governance Guidelines incorporate the practices and policies under which the board has operated, including the requirement that a substantial majority of directors be outside, independent directors and that the audit committee, management compensation and benefits committee (the compensation committee) and the corporate governance and nominating committee be comprised entirely of independent directors. Principal topics addressed by the Corporate Governance Guidelines include:

Board composition, including board size, independence of directors, number of independent directors, lead director position and succession planning;

Board functions, including executive sessions of non-employee directors, length of board service, access to management, board retirement and management development and succession planning; and

Board committees, including responsibilities for each committee, nomination and selection of directors, director compensation, board assessment, chief executive officer evaluation and retention of independent advisors.

The corporate governance and nominating committee will periodically review and amend the Corporate Governance Guidelines as needed. A copy of the ChoicePoint Inc. Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers and Business Unit Leaders, the Corporate Governance Guidelines and

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charters for the audit committee, management compensation and benefits committee and corporate governance and nominating committee may be found on the Company's web site at [www.choicepoint.com](http://www.choicepoint.com). Copies will be provided to shareholders who request a copy in writing to the Corporate Secretary, ChoicePoint Inc., 1000 Alderman Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005.

The corporate governance and nominating committee will consider nominees recommended by the board of directors, management and shareholders. The corporate governance and nominating committee is authorized to retain third-party executive search firms to identify candidates.

The corporate governance and nominating committee will consider certain factors when selecting board candidates, including, but not limited to, the current composition and diversity of skills of the board, expertise and experience of a director leaving the board, expertise required for a particular board committee or if there is a corporate need for specific skills. The corporate governance and nominating committee applies the following guidelines when considering a prospective candidate for the board:

A desire to serve on the board primarily to contribute to the growth and prosperity of ChoicePoint and help create long-term value for its shareholders;

Individuals who possess the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity and values;

Business or professional knowledge and experience that will contribute to the effectiveness of the board and the committees of the board, and will replace, when possible, important attributes possessed by directors who have retired or will retire in the near future;

The ability to understand and exercise sound judgment on issues related to the goals of ChoicePoint;

A willingness and ability to devote the time and effort required to serve effectively on the board, including preparation for and attendance at board and committee meetings;

An understanding of the interests of shareholders, customers, employees and the general public, the intention and ability to act in the interests of all shareholders and an understanding of the use of information to help create a safer, more secure society;

A position of leadership in his or her field of endeavor which may include business, government, community or education; and

Free of interests or affiliations that could give rise to a biased approach to directorship responsibilities and/or a conflict of interest, and free of any material business relationship with ChoicePoint except for the employment relationship of an inside director.

A specific area of business expertise that will best benefit the Company will be identified by the corporate governance and nominating committee and based on this determination, and the criteria required for potential nominees, candidates possessing the targeted skills and requirements will be selected. Once a prospective nominee has been identified, the chairman of the board will initiate discussions with a prospective candidate and make appropriate recommendations to the corporate governance and nominating committee. The corporate governance and nominating committee will consider the qualifications of the potential candidate and make a recommendation to the full board. Candidates are subject to ChoicePoint's background screening process.

Any shareholder who wishes to recommend a prospective candidate for the board of directors for consideration by the corporate governance and nominating committee may do so by submitting the nominee's name and qualifications in writing to the following address: ChoicePoint Inc., 1000 Alderman Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005, Attn: Corporate Secretary. The corporate governance and nominating committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates a nominee based on whether the nominee was recommended by a shareholder.

Shareholders wishing to communicate with the board of directors, any of its committees, or one or more individual directors regarding relevant business issues or who wish to make concerns regarding

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ChoicePoint known to the non-employee directors as a group, should send all written communications to: ChoicePoint Inc., 1000 Alderman Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005, Attn: Corporate Secretary. Written correspondence will be forwarded to the appropriate directors.

**PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF CHOICEPOINT DIRECTORS**

The ChoicePoint board of directors has currently fixed the number of ChoicePoint directors at eleven. The ChoicePoint board of directors is divided into three classes, with each class elected for a three-year term. Terms are staggered so that one class is elected each year. The terms of Thomas M. Coughlin, Bonnie G. Hill and Derek V. Smith will expire at the 2004 annual meeting and Messrs. Coughlin and Smith will stand for reelection. Ms. Hill has elected to retire from the board of directors and therefore will not stand for reelection. Although Bernard Marcus term expires in 2005, he has also elected to retire from the board of directors at the 2004 annual meeting of shareholders. A non-employee director of the Company recommended John B. McCoy as a potential board candidate to the corporate governance and nominating committee, which recommended Mr. McCoy to the board of directors for election as a director. He was appointed as a director by the board of directors in December 2003 and is now standing for election by the shareholders for a term expiring at the 2005 annual meeting of shareholders.

The board of directors has nominated Messrs. Coughlin, McCoy and Smith to stand for election or reelection at the ChoicePoint annual meeting.

Each nominee is currently a director of ChoicePoint and has consented to continue to serve as a director if elected. If elected, the nominees listed below will serve for the terms indicated or until their successors are elected and qualified. If any nominee for director shall be unable to serve, the persons named in the proxy may vote for a substitute nominee. There are no family relationships between any director, person nominated to be a director or any executive officer of ChoicePoint or its subsidiaries.

Set forth below is information about the director nominees and about the incumbent directors whose terms will expire in 2005 and 2007.

**Nominee for a Term Expiring in 2005**

*John B. McCoy*, 60, has served as a director of ChoicePoint since December 31, 2003. He is the retired Chairman of Bank One Corporation, a bank holding company. From June 2000 to December 2003, he served as Chairman of Corillian Corporation, a provider of online banking and software services. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Bank One Corporation from 1984 to 1999. Mr. McCoy currently serves as a director of SBC Communications, Inc., a telecommunications service provider, Cardinal Health, Inc., a provider of health care services, and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, a corporation supporting home ownership and rental housing.

**Nominees for Terms Expiring in 2007**

*Thomas M. Coughlin*, 54, has served as a director of ChoicePoint since January 2001. Mr. Coughlin has served as Vice Chairman of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., a retail store chain, since August 2003. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Wal-Mart Stores and Supercenters from 1998 to August 2003 and served as Chief Operating Officer from 1995 to 1998. Since joining Wal-Mart in 1978, he has served in a variety of positions including Vice President of Loss Prevention, Vice President of Human Resources, Executive Vice President of Sam's Operations, Executive Vice President of Specialty Groups and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Wal-Mart Store Operations. He is a director of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

*Derek V. Smith*, 49, is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Mr. Smith has served as Chairman of the Board since May 1999 and as Chief Executive Officer and a director of the Company since May 1997. He also served as President of the Company from May 1997 until April 2002.

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**THE CHOICEPOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF MR. McCOY AS A DIRECTOR TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE 2005 MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS AND FOR THE REELECTION OF MESSRS. COUGHLIN AND SMITH AS DIRECTORS TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE 2007 MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS, OR UNTIL THEIR RESPECTIVE SUCCESSORS ARE ELECTED AND QUALIFIED.**

**Incumbent Directors Whose Terms Will Expire in 2005**

*Dr. John J. Hamre*, 53, has served as a director of ChoicePoint since May 2002. Dr. Hamre has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a non-partisan, non-profit research institute, since January 2000. Dr. Hamre served as U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense from 1997 until 2000 and as Comptroller under the Secretary of Defense from 1993 to 1997. Dr. Hamre received his Ph.D., with distinction, in 1978 from the School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University. He serves as a director of ITT Industries, Inc., a manufacturer of engineering products, and as an advisory board member for several organizations.

*Terrence Murray*, 64, has served as a director of ChoicePoint since May 2002. He served as Chairman of the Board of FleetBoston Financial Corporation, a diversified financial services company, from 2001 to 2002 and served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer from 1982 through 2001, except in 1988, when he served only as President and from 2000 to 2001, when he served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. He serves as a director of FleetBoston Financial Corporation, A. T. Cross Company, a producer of writing instruments, CVS Corporation, a retail drugstore chain, and Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., a gas and chemicals company.

**Incumbent Directors Whose Terms Will Expire in 2006**

*Douglas C. Curling*, 49, has served as a director of ChoicePoint since May 2000. He has served as President since April 2002 and as Chief Operating Officer since May 1999. He served as Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer from May 1999 to May 2000 and served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company from 1997 until May 1999.

*James M. Denny*, 71, has served as a director of ChoicePoint since June 1997. From September 1995 to December 2000, Mr. Denny was Senior Advisor to William Blair Capital Partners, L.L.C., a private equity investment company. He served as Vice Chairman of Sears, Roebuck & Co., a retail department store chain, from 1992 until his retirement in 1995. He also serves as a director of GATX Corporation, a diversified financial services company and as Chairman of the Board of Gilead Sciences, Inc., a bio-pharmaceutical company.

*Kenneth G. Langone*, 68, has served as a director of ChoicePoint since May 2000. Mr. Langone has served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Invemed Associates LLC, an investment banking and brokerage firm, since 1974. He also serves as a director of The Home Depot, Inc., a home improvement retailer, General Electric Company, a diversified industrial corporation, Unifi, Inc., a producer of textile yarns, YUM! Brands, Inc., a food services company, and several private corporations.

*Charles I. Story*, 49, has served as a director of ChoicePoint since June 1997. Mr. Story has been President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of INROADS, Inc., an international non-profit training and development organization, since January 1993. He also serves as a director of Briggs & Stratton Corporation, a producer of gasoline engines, and as an advisory director to AmSouth Bank.

**Board Meetings and Committees**

The board of directors of ChoicePoint met four times during 2003. The board of directors has established several standing committees, which met at various intervals as indicated below. All directors attended at least 75% of the meetings of the board of directors and the various committees of which they were members. The Company has not adopted a formal policy regarding board members' attendance at the

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Company's annual meetings; however, the Company encourages all board members to attend the annual meeting. All of the Company's directors were in attendance at the 2003 annual meeting of shareholders.

***Executive Committee***

The members of the executive committee are Messrs. Smith (Chairman), Coughlin, Langone and Murray. The executive committee did not meet, but took action by written consent, once during 2003. This committee, in general, is authorized to exercise the powers of the board of directors in the management of all of the affairs of ChoicePoint during the intervals between board of directors meetings, subject to the board of directors' direction.

***Management Compensation and Benefits Committee***

The members of the compensation committee are Mr. Murray (Chairman), Dr. Hamre and Ms. Hill. The compensation committee met four times during 2003. This committee is responsible for all decisions regarding compensation of the chief executive officer and named executive officers and incentive compensation awards for ChoicePoint's executive officers. The compensation committee is also responsible for establishing and approving compensation policies, management incentive compensation plans and other material benefit plans.

***Audit Committee***

The members of the audit committee are Messrs. Coughlin (Chairman), Denny and McCoy. The audit committee met in person three times and by teleconference four times during 2003. This committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending to the board of directors the engagement or discharge of independent auditors, reviewing with independent auditors the scope, plan for and results of the audit engagement, reviewing the scope and results of ChoicePoint's internal audit department, reviewing the adequacy of ChoicePoint's system of internal accounting controls, reviewing the status of material litigation and corporate compliance, and any other matters the audit committee deems appropriate. The board of directors has determined that Mr. McCoy is qualified as an audit committee financial expert, within the meaning of SEC regulations, and possesses related financial management expertise within the meaning of the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. The board has affirmatively determined that all members of the audit committee are independent under the New York Stock Exchange listing standards and Rule 10A-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act. The Company has established the audit committee in accordance with Section 3(a)(58) of the Exchange Act.

***Privacy Committee***

The members of the privacy committee are Dr. Hamre (Chairman) and Messrs. Curling and Story. The privacy committee met twice in 2003. This committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring legislation and recommending policies to the board of directors as to privacy matters affecting ChoicePoint.

***Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee***

The members of the corporate governance and nominating committee are Messrs. Langone (Chairman), Coughlin and Murray and Dr. Hamre. The corporate governance and nominating committee met twice during 2003. This committee is responsible for identifying corporate governance issues, creating corporate governance policies, identifying and recommending potential candidates for election to the board of directors and reviewing director compensation. The board has affirmatively determined that all members of the corporate governance and nominating committee are independent under the New York Stock Exchange listing standards.

**Director Compensation**

Directors who are salaried officers or employees of ChoicePoint receive no additional compensation for services as a director or as a member of a committee of the board of directors. Each director who is

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not a salaried officer or employee of ChoicePoint is compensated as follows. The non-employee chairman of the board of directors is paid an annual fee of \$40,000 for his or her services and an additional fee of \$2,500 for attendance at each meeting of the board of directors or a committee thereof. Until October 1, 2003, each other ChoicePoint non-employee director was paid an annual fee of \$32,000 for services as a director, an additional fee of \$1,000 for attendance at each meeting of the board of directors, and \$1,000 (or \$2,500 if designated as chairman) for attendance at each committee meeting. Effective October 1, 2003, ChoicePoint non-employee directors are paid an annual fee of \$40,000 for services as a director, an additional fee of \$1,500 for attendance at each meeting of the board of directors, and \$1,000 for attendance at each committee meeting. The chairman of the audit committee receives an annual fee of \$10,000 and each other committee chairman receives an annual fee of \$5,000. Derek V. Smith and Douglas C. Curling do not receive this compensation since they are salaried employees of ChoicePoint.

Until October 1, 2003, upon initial election to the board of directors, each ChoicePoint non-employee director received a one-time grant of restricted ChoicePoint common stock with a market value of \$25,000, which vests after 36 months or upon death or retirement from the board of directors, whichever occurs first. ChoicePoint non-employee directors also received annual stock option awards of 5,000 shares of ChoicePoint common stock and the non-employee chairman of the board of directors received annual stock option awards of 7,500 shares. The stock option awards vest after 24 months or upon the director's earlier death or retirement from the board of directors. Restricted stock and stock option awards were issued under the ChoicePoint stock incentive plans. Effective October 1, 2003, upon initial election to the board of directors, instead of a restricted stock grant, each ChoicePoint non-employee director now receives a one-time grant of share equivalent units with a market value of \$40,000 and in lieu of the annual stock option awards, non-employee directors now receive an annual award of 3,125 share equivalent units. The share equivalent units vest twelve months after cessation from service on the board. However, Messrs. Smith and Curling do not receive these awards because they are salaried employees of ChoicePoint.

ChoicePoint non-employee directors are eligible for participation in ChoicePoint's deferred compensation plan, pursuant to which each ChoicePoint non-employee director may elect to defer up to 100% of earned director cash compensation into accounts that are credited with earnings or losses based upon imputed investments in one or more of the following, as selected by the individual director: (a) the market value of, and any dividends on ChoicePoint common stock (common share equivalents), (b) a short-term income fund, (c) an equity index fund, or (d) a fixed income fund. Funds invested in common share equivalents may be redeemed only for cash on a fixed date or upon termination of service as a director, as elected in advance by the director. No director has voting or investment power with respect to the common share equivalents. A more complete description of the deferred compensation plan is included in this proxy statement under the heading Proposal No. 2 Approval of the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan.

**Table of Contents****CHOICEPOINT SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN  
BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table reflects information, as of February 29, 2004, with respect to the beneficial ownership of the outstanding ChoicePoint common stock by (1) persons known to ChoicePoint to be the beneficial owners of more than five percent of the ChoicePoint common stock in accordance with Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, (2) each of the executive officers of ChoicePoint named in the summary compensation table which follows, (3) each director and director nominee of ChoicePoint, and (4) all of the directors, director nominees and executive officers of ChoicePoint as a group. Share ownership information represents those shares as to which the individual holds sole voting and investment power, except as otherwise indicated. The number of outstanding shares of ChoicePoint common stock as of February 29, 2004 was 88,003,626. Share amounts have been adjusted to reflect the two-for-one stock split that was effective November 24, 1999, the three-for-two stock split that was effective March 7, 2001 and the four-for-three stock split that was effective June 6, 2002.

Name and Address	Number of Shares(1)	Percent of Class (%)
Baron Capital Group, Inc. BAMCO, Inc. Baron Capital Management, Inc. Baron Asset Fund Ronald Baron 767 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10153	9,682,610(2)	11.0
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. 100 East Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202	6,555,459(3)	7.4
FMR Corp. Edward C. Johnson 3d Abigail P. Johnson 82 Devonshire Street Boston, MA 02109	5,551,697(4)	6.3
Thomas M. Coughlin	14,229	*
Douglas C. Curling	843,750(5)	1.0
J. Michael de Janes	255,664(6)	*
James M. Denny	46,244	*
John J. Hamre	7,250	*
Bonnie G. Hill	15,149	*
Kenneth G. Langone	1,965,011(7)	2.2
David T. Lee	582,131	*
Bernard Marcus	152,521	*
John B. McCoy	3,000	*
Terrence Murray	7,250	*
Derek V. Smith	3,203,677(8)	3.6
Charles I. Story	46,244	*
Steven W. Surbaugh	54,720(9)	*
All Executive Officers, Directors, and Nominees as a Group (16 persons)	7,350,739	8.4

\* Represents beneficial ownership of less than 1% of the outstanding ChoicePoint common stock.

(1) Includes shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable on February 27, 2004, or within 60 days thereafter, as follows:  
Mr. Coughlin 13,332 shares; Mr. Curling 646,743 shares; Mr. de Janes



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225,232 shares; Mr. Denny 43,332 shares; Dr. Hamre 6,666 shares; Ms. Hill 13,332 shares; Mr. Langone 229,332 shares; Mr. Lee 460,072 shares; Mr. Marcus 71,832 shares; Mr. Murray 6,666 shares; Mr. Smith 2,725,039 shares; Mr. Story 43,332 shares, and other executive officers 137,940 shares.

- (2) This information is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 13, 2004 by Baron Capital Group, Inc., BAMCO, Inc., Baron Capital Management, Inc., Baron Asset Fund and Ronald Baron. According to the Schedule 13G/A, Baron Capital Group, Inc. has sole voting power and sole dispositive power covering 225,000 shares and shared voting power for 9,230,710 shares and shared dispositive power covering 9,457,610 shares. BAMCO, Inc. has shared voting power covering 8,677,000 shares and shared dispositive power covering 8,887,500 shares. Baron Capital Management, Inc. has sole voting and sole dispositive power covering 225,000 shares and shared voting power covering 553,710 shares and shared dispositive power covering 570,110 shares. Baron Asset Fund has shared voting and dispositive power covering 5,340,000 shares and Ronald Baron has sole voting power and sole dispositive power covering 225,000 shares and shared voting power covering 9,230,710 shares and shared dispositive power covering 9,457,610 shares.
- (3) This information is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 4, 2004 by T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. ( Price Associates ). According to the Schedule 13G/A, Price Associates has sole voting power covering 1,268,206 shares and sole dispositive power covering 6,555,459 shares, which are owned by various individual and institutional investors, for which Price Associates serves as investment adviser with power to direct vestments and/or sole power to vote the securities. For purposes of the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Price Associates is deemed to be a beneficial owner of such securities; however, Price Associates expressly disclaims that it is, in fact, the beneficial owner of such securities.
- (4) This information is based on a Schedule 13G/ A filed with the SEC on February 17, 2004. According to the Schedule 13G/A, FMR Corp. has sole voting power covering 173,259 shares and sole dispositive power covering 5,551,697 shares, Edward C. Johnson 3d has sole dispositive power covering 5,551,697 shares, and Abigail P. Johnson has sole dispositive power covering 5,551,697 shares.
- (5) Includes 10,000 shares held in a trust, 1,300 shares held in a custodial account for his son, 1,250 shares held in a custodial account for his daughter and 1,483 shares held in a custodial account for his minor son. Excludes 50,000 shares of restricted stock granted under the 1997 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan, the receipt of which the officer has elected to defer under the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan No. 2, 25,000 deferred shares issued under the 1997 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan and 50,000 deferred shares issued under the 2003 Omnibus Incentive Plan.
- (6) Includes 100 shares owned by his wife.
- (7) Includes 971,533 shares owned by Invemed Securities, Inc. and 209 shares owned by his wife. Mr. Langone is Chairman of Invemed Securities, Inc.
- (8) Includes 400 shares owned by his wife and 37,917 shares held in a trust. Excludes 100,000 shares of restricted stock granted under the 1997 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan, the receipt of which the officer has elected to defer under the ChoicePoint Deferred Compensation Plan No. 2, 50,000 deferred shares issued under the 1997 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan and 100,000 deferred shares issued under the 2003 Omnibus Incentive Plan.
- (9) Includes 13,333 restricted shares owned by his wife.

**MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE  
REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The compensation of ChoicePoint's executive officers is determined by the compensation committee of the board of directors. The compensation committee was established by the board of directors and is composed entirely of directors who are not, and have never been, officers or employees of ChoicePoint and who are otherwise independent directors under the New York Stock Exchange listing standards. The

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board of directors designates the members and the chairman of this committee. The compensation committee is responsible for all decisions regarding the compensation of the executive officers, including the chief executive officer, and for establishing and administering ChoicePoint's compensation and benefit policies and practices for the executive officers. The compensation committee is also responsible for the administration of the stock incentive plans.

The compensation philosophy adopted by the compensation committee at ChoicePoint's inception in 1997 was relied on from 1997 through the first half of 2003. The original compensation philosophy included a long-term incentive compensation approach that granted fair market value stock options, rather than restricted stock, as the primary type of award under the ChoicePoint Inc. 1997 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan, but used no specific formula to determine grants and had no self-imposed limits on grant amounts.

In April 2003, the board of directors recommended and the shareholders approved the 2003 Omnibus Incentive Plan that included the following new long-term compensation standards:

No grant may provide for automatic reload rights;

Option rights may not be amended to reduce the option price;

Option price per share shall be no less than 100 percent of the fair market value; and

Limitation on the number of shares issued as restricted stock and deferred shares.

Following shareholder approval of the 2003 Omnibus Incentive Plan and consistent with the philosophy of the standards listed above, in 2003 the compensation committee stated its intention to limit the number of equity-based grants to an amount, in the aggregate in a given fiscal year, of no more than two percent of ChoicePoint's outstanding shares. Additionally, the compensation committee revised its approach to long-term incentive compensation to utilize a mixture of equity vehicles including performance-accelerated, performance-contingent and time-based grants of stock options, deferred shares and restricted stock, and placed limits on the amount of the aggregate annual equity-based grants that could be awarded in a given year to ChoicePoint's top two executives, the CEO and COO, at fifteen percent of the total equity-based grants in that year. The compensation committee intends that the earning of a significant portion of the awards in the future will be tied to performance and believes the revised compensation philosophy, including grant amount limitations and achievement of performance goals is properly aligned with the long-term interests of its shareholders.

The following report summarizes the philosophies, methods and recent revisions thereto that the compensation committee uses in establishing and administering ChoicePoint's executive compensation and incentive programs, including the development of compensation programs designed to provide key employees with ownership interests in ChoicePoint and motivation to build shareholder value.

## **Executive Compensation Policies**

ChoicePoint's executive compensation policies are designed to attract and retain qualified executives, to reward individual achievement appropriately and to enhance the financial performance of ChoicePoint, and thus shareholder value, by significantly aligning the financial interests of ChoicePoint's executives with those of its shareholders. To accomplish these objectives, the executive compensation program is comprised of (1) base salary, (2) an annual variable cash incentive award, (3) long-term incentive compensation, consisting of restricted stock, deferred shares and fair market value stock options, and (4) other benefits that are intended to provide competitive capital accumulation opportunities and health, welfare and other fringe benefits. Base salary and annual bonuses are designed to recognize both individual performance and the achievement of corporate business objectives each year. The value of long-term incentives is directly linked to the performance of the ChoicePoint common stock. Executive officers also are eligible to participate in a variety of other benefit plans, including a deferred compensation plan, supplemental life and disability plans available to key officers and benefit plans available to employees

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generally, including the ChoicePoint Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (the 401(k) Plan ) and health-related plans.

Decisions regarding the compensation of named executive officers are based upon (1) the policies described above, (2) ChoicePoint's operating performance, and (3) competitive practices for executive talent. In addition to these principles, the compensation committee uses experience and judgment in determining the mix and level of compensation. The compensation committee considers market practices and compensation information drawn from a broad range of companies, including, but not limited to, certain of the companies included in the industry indices used in the stock performance graph included in this proxy statement. The compensation committee's policy is to work with an outside consultant to provide ChoicePoint's officers with a competitive base salary and to offer variable performance-based elements that provide the named executive officers with the opportunity, when superior performance is achieved, to earn total compensation packages that are generally in the top quartile of similar titled positions for publicly traded companies.

**Annual Salary and Incentive Bonuses**

In determining the base salaries for ChoicePoint's named executive officers, the compensation committee takes into consideration each executive's experience and the responsibilities attendant to his position. Base salaries for the named executive officers are reviewed annually. In evaluating whether an adjustment to an executive's base salary is appropriate, factors such as the scope of the individual's job responsibilities and performance over the past year, as well as an assessment of how well the individual performed in meeting or exceeding the personal goals set for that individual for the applicable period, is considered. In 2003, the compensation committee accepted the request of Messrs. Smith and Curling that there be no increase in their base salaries.

The purpose of ChoicePoint's annual incentive compensation plan is to unite the interests of ChoicePoint's management employees with those of its shareholders through annual payment of cash incentive awards to management employees based upon attainment of annually established (1) corporate economic value added goals and (2) strategic initiatives. Target incentive cash opportunities under the ChoicePoint annual incentive compensation plan for the named executive officers other than the chief executive officer can range from 40% to 75% of base salary, and for the chief executive officer represent 100% of his base salary. Actual annual cash bonuses are determined by measuring corporate performance and completion of individual strategic initiatives against goals established for the applicable period. The goals take into account, depending upon the responsibility level of the individual, one or more factors, including the individual's performance, the performance of the functional group or unit with which the individual is associated (primarily based upon the economic value added objective of such unit), and the overall performance of ChoicePoint (primarily based upon economic value added goals). Such goals may or may not be equally weighted and may vary from one named executive officer to another. Bonus awards under the ChoicePoint annual incentive compensation plan also take into account an assessment of the performance of the individual executive officer. For 2003, the degree of achievement of economic value added goals, individual performance goals and strategic initiatives by each of the named executive officers resulted in a total compensation package that exceeded the target opportunity level.

**Long-Term Incentive Compensation**

The stock incentive plan is intended to provide a means of encouraging an ownership interest in ChoicePoint by those employees who have contributed, or are determined to be in a position to contribute, materially to the success of ChoicePoint, thereby increasing their motivation for, and interest in the achievement of, ChoicePoint's long-term success. Because the value of equity grants bears a direct relationship to the price of shares of the ChoicePoint common stock, the compensation committee believes that equity grants are a means of encouraging executives and other key management employees to increase long-term shareholder value. ChoicePoint's 2003 long-term incentive compensation program for its CEO and COO consisted of a combination of fair market value stock options which vest 100% on the third anniversary of the grant, fair market value stock options which have performance-based accelerated vesting

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features and deferred shares which vest after the expiration of their current employment agreements (currently scheduled for 2010) and for other executive officers, consisted of a combination of fair market value stock options which vest 100% on the third anniversary of the grant, fair market value stock options which have performance-based accelerated vesting features and restricted stock which vests 100% on the third anniversary of the grant, pursuant to the stock incentive plans. Consistent with the original compensation philosophy of the compensation committee described above, ChoicePoint, in February and July 2003, granted options, deferred shares and restricted stock to named executive officers (including the chief executive officer) and a number of employees.

In December 2003, the compensation committee revised its compensation philosophy regarding the use of equity grants. The current philosophy is to limit the number of annual equity-based grants awarded to no more than two percent of the Company's outstanding shares and limit the combined grants to the CEO and COO to not more than fifteen percent of the Company's annual equity-based grant. The compensation philosophy will link long-term incentives directly to the performance of the ChoicePoint common stock and include a combination of performance-accelerated, performance-contingent and time-based grants of fair market value stock options, deferred shares and restricted stock. The compensation committee believes that long-term equity compensation that is earned upon achievement of performance goals is properly aligned with the long-term interests of its shareholders, and it currently intends that the earning of a significant proportion of the awards granted in the future will be tied to performance. In determining the maximum number of shares which constitute an award of long-term equity under the stock incentive plan, the compensation committee has no specific formula, other than the limitations discussed above, but rather determines the number of shares based upon such factors as individual contribution to corporate performance, market practices, and for grants other than for the CEO and COO, management recommendations.

**Compensation of the Chief Executive Officer**

The compensation committee generally applies the compensation philosophy described above for named executive officers in order to determine the compensation for Derek V. Smith, ChoicePoint's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. In setting both the cash-based and equity-based elements of Mr. Smith's compensation, the compensation committee's objective is to establish compensation at target levels that are competitive and reflect market practice. Factors considered in evaluating Mr. Smith's performance include exceeding the financial targets, executing desired strategic direction and increasing shareholder value. No specific weight is assigned to these factors in the evaluation process.

**Section 162(m) Limitation**

The compensation committee believes that the compensation program serves its intended objectives. It believes the use of fair market value stock options minimizes the effect of the \$1,000,000 limitation on the deduction that an employer may claim for compensation of executives under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. Section 162(m) provides exceptions to the deduction limitation, and it is the intent of the compensation committee to qualify for these exceptions to the extent feasible and in the best interests of ChoicePoint, including the exceptions with respect to performance-based compensation.

While it is the compensation committee's intention to maximize the deductibility of compensation payable to ChoicePoint's named executive officers, deductibility will be only one among a number of factors used by the compensation committee in ascertaining appropriate levels or methods of compensation. ChoicePoint intends to maintain the flexibility to compensate named executive officers based upon an overall determination of what it believes to be in the best interests of ChoicePoint and its shareholders.

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**Conclusion**

This report is submitted by the compensation committee.

Management Compensation and Benefits Committee

Terrence Murray (*Chairman*)

John J. Hamre

Bonnie G. Hill

March 19, 2004

**THE FOREGOING REPORT SHOULD NOT BE DEEMED INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE BY ANY GENERAL STATEMENT INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THIS PROXY STATEMENT INTO ANY FILING UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, OR UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, AS AMENDED (TOGETHER, THE ACTS ), EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT CHOICEPOINT SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATES THIS INFORMATION BY REFERENCE, AND SHALL NOT OTHERWISE BE DEEMED FILED UNDER SUCH ACTS.**

**Table of Contents****CHOICEPOINT EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION****Summary of Cash and Other Compensation**

The following table shows, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, the compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to ChoicePoint's chief executive officer and the four other most highly compensated executive officers of ChoicePoint, referred to as the named executive officers in all capacities in which they served during such fiscal years.

**Summary Compensation Table**

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation			Long-Term Compensation			
		Salary	Bonus(1)	Other Annual Compensation(2)	Awards		Payouts	
					Restricted Stock Awards(3)	Securities Underlying Options #(4)	LTIP Payouts	All Other Compensation(5)
Derek V. Smith	2003	\$ 1,003,832	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 553,403	\$ 3,570,500	300,000	\$	\$ 1,334,426
Chairman & CEO	2002	951,434	1,950,000	297,383	972,000	733,332	3,410,438	979,641
	2001	817,306	1,500,000		5,509,969	500,000		1,021,692
	Douglas C. Curling	2003	577,202	700,000	128,175	1,785,250	150,000	
President & Chief Operating Officer	2002	545,764	950,000	73,215	486,000	366,665	1,637,010	325,678
	2001	465,383	725,000		2,754,984	250,000		332,470
David T. Lee	2003	328,831	300,000		334,500	50,000		111,002
	2002	296,519	350,000			86,664	477,461	95,438
	2001	252,499	275,000		429,000	70,000		114,458
Steven W. Surbaugh	2003	312,913	250,000		641,750	20,000		21,860
	2002	206,539	300,000		1,141,200	200,000		15,442
	2001							
J. Michael de Janes	2003	256,842	125,000			10,000		33,454
	2002	240,477	142,500			43,331	272,835	31,842
	2001	212,498	150,000		214,500	25,000		34,614

- (1) Represents an annual cash incentive award determined as a percentage of salary in the discretion of the compensation committee based upon attainment of corporate economic value-added goals and strategic initiatives.
- (2) For 2003, these amounts include: for Mr. Smith \$171,457 in incremental unreimbursed cost for use of the corporate aircraft and \$150,000 for a club initiation fee and for Mr. Curling \$78,721 in incremental unreimbursed cost for use of the corporate aircraft. For 2002, these amounts include: for Mr. Smith \$94,506 and Mr. Curling \$36,392 in financial planning and tax preparation fees and for Mr. Smith \$126,673 in incremental unreimbursed cost for use of the corporate aircraft.
- (3) ChoicePoint granted restricted stock and deferred shares during 2003, 2002 and 2001 to a selected group of key officers to assure the key officers are retained through various dates ending April 2007. In 2001, Messrs. Smith and Curling were granted the right to receive long-term cash awards, subject to achieving certain performance goals. These awards, if earned, would be based on a predetermined value that equals 75% of the market value on the vesting date of the restricted share grant of the same date. In 2002, these executive officers elected that 95% of these awards be delivered in shares of ChoicePoint common stock rather than in cash, subject to achieving the original performance vesting goals, and that their distribution be deferred to a date subsequent to the termination of their respective employment. The remaining 5% of these awards, subject to achieving the original performance vesting goals, will be paid in cash. These deferred shares are reflected as granted in 2001 in this table. In the event that any dividends are paid with respect to the ChoicePoint common stock in the future, dividends will be paid on the shares of restricted or deferred ChoicePoint common stock at the same rate. The value of restricted stock awards and deferred shares shown in the table is as of the dates of grant. As of December 31, 2003, the total number of restricted stock awards and deferred shares outstanding and related fair market value were as follows: Mr. Smith 287,250 shares (\$10,941,353); Mr. Curling 143,625 shares (\$5,470,676); Mr. Lee 23,333 shares (\$888,754); Mr. Surbaugh 44,166 shares (\$1,682,283); and Mr. de Janes 6,666 shares (\$253,908).



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- (4) Share amounts have been adjusted to reflect the three-for-two stock split that was effective March 7, 2001 and the four-for-three stock split that was effective June 6, 2002.
- (5) For 2003, these amounts include: for Mr. Smith, \$25,557 contributions under the 401(k) Plan, \$1,295,272 accrued under ChoicePoint's deferred compensation plan, referred to as the DCP Plan, \$9,000 in term life insurance premiums, referred to as the Life Premiums, and \$4,596 for employer contributions for the salaried employee health-related benefit plan, referred to as the Health Plan Contributions, for Mr. Curling, \$18,862 in contributions under the 401(k) Plan, \$420,284 accrued under the DCP Plan, \$9,196 in Life Premiums, and \$4,596 in Health Plan Contributions; for Mr. Lee, \$18,862 in contributions under the 401(k) Plan, \$82,080 accrued under the DCP Plan, \$5,464 in Life Premiums, and \$4,596 in Health Plan Contributions; for Mr. Surbaugh, \$7,320 in contributions under the 401(k) Plan, \$4,054 accrued under the DCP Plan, \$5,890 in Life Premiums, and \$4,596 in Health Plan Contributions; and for Mr. de Janes, \$18,862 in contributions under the 401(k) Plan, \$7,077 under the DCP Plan, \$4,834 in Life Premiums, and \$2,681 in Health Plan Contributions.

**Stock Options**

The following table sets forth information concerning the grants to the named executive officers of options to purchase ChoicePoint common stock during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003.

**Option Grants in Last Fiscal Year**

Name	Number of Shares of Common Stock Underlying Options Granted(1)(2)	Percent of Total Options Granted to Employees in 2003	Exercise Price Per Share	Expiration Date	Potential Realizable Value at Assumed Rates of Stock Price Appreciation for Option Term	
					5%(3)	10%(3)
Derek V. Smith	300,000	19.09%	\$33.4500	02/11/2013	\$6,310,958	\$15,993,206
Douglas C. Curling	150,000	9.55%	33.4500	02/11/2013	3,155,479	7,996,603
David T. Lee	50,000	3.18%	33.4500	02/11/2013	1,051,826	2,665,534
Steven W. Surbaugh	20,000	1.27%	33.4500	02/11/2013	420,731	1,066,214
J. Michael de Janes	10,000	0.64%	33.4500	02/11/2013	210,365	533,107

- (1) All options were granted pursuant to the ChoicePoint Inc. 1997 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan prior to the approval of the 2003 Omnibus Incentive Plan in April 2003.
- (2) The number of options includes non-qualified, performance-accelerated options to purchase the following number of shares of ChoicePoint common stock: 150,000 shares for Mr. Smith, 75,000 shares for Mr. Curling, 25,000 shares for Mr. Lee, 10,000 for Mr. Surbaugh, and 5,000 shares for Mr. de Janes that will vest 100% on the seventh anniversary of the grant, subject to accelerated vesting based on achieving certain performance criteria within three years of the grant date. The number also includes options to purchase the following number of shares of ChoicePoint common stock: 150,000 for Mr. Smith, 75,000 for Mr. Curling, 25,000 for Mr. Lee, 10,000 for Mr. Surbaugh and 5,000 for Mr. de Janes that vest 100% on the third anniversary of the date of grant.
- (3) These amounts represent assumed rates of appreciation only. Actual gains, if any, realized upon exercises of stock options are dependent on future performance of the ChoicePoint common stock and overall market conditions. There can be no assurance that the amounts reflected in these columns will be achieved or, if achieved, will be realized at the time of any option exercise.

**Aggregated Option Exercises in Last Fiscal Year And Fiscal Year-End Option Values**

The following table sets forth information, with respect to each named executive officer, concerning any exercise of options to purchase ChoicePoint common stock during the fiscal year ended December 31,



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2003 and the fiscal year-end value of outstanding unexercised options to purchase ChoicePoint common stock held at December 31, 2003.

Name	Shares Acquired on Exercise(#)(1)	Value Realized	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options at Fiscal Year-End(#)(1)		Value of Unexercised In-the- Money Options at Fiscal Year-End(2)	
			Exercisable	Unexercisable	Exercisable	Unexercisable
Derek V. Smith	5,253	\$ 99,065	2,475,041	1,283,330	\$63,157,438	\$4,414,476
Douglas C. Curling	5,253	99,065	521,745	641,663	10,452,552	2,207,226
David T. Lee	22,980	738,868	425,074	158,330	10,276,939	655,126
Steven W. Surbaugh				220,000		92,800
J. Michael de Janes			212,734	59,163	5,538,600	197,501

- (1) Share amounts have been adjusted to reflect the two-for-one stock split effective November 24, 1999, the three-for-two stock split effective March 7, 2001 and the four-for-three stock split effective June 6, 2002.
- (2) The value of unexercised options equals the fair market value per share of ChoicePoint common stock as of December 31, 2003, less the exercise price, multiplied by the number of shares underlying the stock options. The closing price of the ChoicePoint common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on December 31, 2003 was \$38.09 per share.

**Employment Agreements and Change-in-Control Arrangements**

ChoicePoint currently has in effect employment agreements with Messrs. Smith, Curling, Lee, Surbaugh and de Janes. The employment agreements set forth minimum base salary amounts and provide for participation in ChoicePoint's employee and executive benefit plans and certain prerequisites. The employment agreements vary in duration, but all provide for automatic extensions if not otherwise terminated. The employment agreements may be terminated by either ChoicePoint or by the executive. The employment agreements provide that, under specified circumstances, in the event of a termination, the executive would be entitled to severance pay for a period of up to two years from the date of termination.

The employment agreements also contain provisions for severance pay and specified benefits upon the occurrence of a change in control of ChoicePoint. A change in control is defined by the employment agreements to mean: (1) a merger, consolidation or other reorganization of ChoicePoint that results in the shareholders of ChoicePoint holding less than a majority of the voting power of the resulting entity after such a transaction; (2) a sale or transfer of all or substantially all of ChoicePoint's assets to an entity in which the shareholders of ChoicePoint hold less than a majority of the voting power of such entity immediately following such sale or transfer; (3) the filing of a report with the SEC pursuant to the provisions of the Exchange Act disclosing that a person or entity beneficially owns shares representing at least 30% of ChoicePoint's voting power; (4) disclosure by ChoicePoint, pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act, that a change in control (as defined in the Exchange Act) has occurred or may occur pursuant to a then-existing agreement; or (5) in specified circumstances, the failure to reelect a majority of the members of ChoicePoint's board of directors. In the event that the executive's employment is terminated within five years, and in the case of Mr. Surbaugh within seven years, after the date of a change in control, then the executive is entitled to severance pay and other benefits. The amount of the severance payment is based upon the executive's annual compensation, with specified components of such compensation multiplied by a factor ranging from two to three times.

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**Management Compensation and Benefits Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

The compensation committee consists of Mr. Murray (Chairman) and Dr. Hamre and Ms. Hill. None of the members of the compensation committee is a former or current officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. None of ChoicePoint's executive officers currently serve on the compensation committee or board of directors of any other company of which any member of the Company's compensation committee or board of directors is an executive officer.

**Table of Contents****EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION**

The following table gives information about our common stock as of December 31, 2003, that may be issued upon exercise of options, warrants and rights under the 1997 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan, 2003 Omnibus Incentive Plan, the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan and the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan No. 2 (the only stock compensation plans of the Company).

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column(a))
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	12,324,490	\$23.17	5,357,955
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	(1)		(1)
Total	12,324,490		5,357,955

- (1) As described below, participants in these deferred compensation plans will receive shares of ChoicePoint common stock with respect to compensation that has been deferred under the plan. The number of shares distributed will be based on the value of the amounts deferred. The shares distributed will be treasury shares held by ChoicePoint or will be acquired by ChoicePoint through open market purchases, and, therefore no new shares will be issued under these plans.

**ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan**

The ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan (the "DCP Plan") allows certain management employees and non-employee directors to defer receipt of a portion of some or all of their compensation payable by the Company. Under certain circumstances, the Company makes contributions to the employee participants' accounts. In general, these Company contributions will be distributed in shares of ChoicePoint common stock. The number of shares to be distributed with respect to those Company contributions is equal to the number of shares that could have been obtained with the Company contribution on the date of the contribution, based on the market value of the stock on that date. Other deferred amounts are credited with the gains or losses based upon different investment alternatives available under the DCP Plan. A participant generally is immediately vested in his or her contributions, while Company contributions may vest immediately or over time. Distributions generally are made upon termination of employment, death, reaching a specified age or as otherwise provided for by the DCP Plan administrator. Distributions are payable in annual installments for a period not exceeding 20 years or a single lump sum payment. The shares distributed under the DCP Plan are provided from treasury shares or are acquired by ChoicePoint through open market purchases. As of December 31, 2003, 110,560 shares of ChoicePoint common stock would have been distributed under the DCP Plan if the vested portion of all accounts that were payable in ChoicePoint common stock had been distributed as of that date. A more complete description of the DCP Plan is included in this proxy statement under the heading "Proposal No. 2 Approval of the ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan."

**ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan No. 2**

Under the ChoicePoint Deferred Compensation Plan No. 2 (the "DCP2 Plan"), certain executive officers may elect to defer receipt, until the termination of their employment or attainment of a stated age, if later, of all or a portion of (1) shares of restricted stock granted to them under the ChoicePoint Inc. 1997 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan that would otherwise be distributed to them upon satisfaction of vesting requirements, and (2) certain cash bonuses granted at the time of grant of the restricted stock awards. The officers become vested in amounts deferred under the DCP2 Plan when the underlying awards

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would vest. The initial grant of restricted stock vests on the third anniversary of grant. The cash bonuses vest based upon satisfaction of performance goals. The number of shares to be distributed with respect to the restricted shares is equal to the number of shares initially deferred under the DCP2 Plan. The total amount of the cash bonus, if earned, would be based on a predetermined value that equals 75% of the market value on the vesting date of the restricted stock grant to that officer. The officers participating in the DCP2 Plan have elected to defer 95% of such cash bonuses, if vested, under the DCP2 Plan. These deferred amounts, if vested, will be distributed in shares of ChoicePoint common stock. The shares distributed under the DCP2 Plan are provided from treasury shares or are acquired by ChoicePoint through open market purchases. If the vesting criteria are met, 256,875 shares of ChoicePoint common stock will be distributed under this plan.

**Table of Contents****CHOICEPOINT STOCK PERFORMANCE GRAPH**

The following graph compares the cumulative total return on the ChoicePoint common stock with a cumulative total return on the S&P Midcap 400 Index and the S&P 400 Diversified Commercial Services Index for the period from December 31, 1998 through December 31, 2003. The comparison assumes an original investment of \$100 on December 31, 1998 and assumes the reinvestment of any dividends.

	Dec-98	Dec-99	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03
ChoicePoint Inc.	100	128.29	203.29	235.77	244.90	236.22
S&P Midcap 400 Index	100	114.72	134.81	133.99	114.54	155.34
S&P 400 Diversified Commercial Services	100	82.07	108.97	103.53	90.53	129.74

The S&P Smallcap 600 Index and the Russell 2000 Index were previously included in the Company's stock performance graph, but since ChoicePoint ceased participation in these indices, they are no longer included.

**THE STOCK PRICE PERFORMANCE GRAPH SHALL NOT BE DEEMED INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE BY ANY GENERAL STATEMENT INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THIS PROXY STATEMENT INTO ANY FILING UNDER THE ACTS, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT CHOICEPOINT SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATES THIS INFORMATION BY REFERENCE, AND SHALL NOT OTHERWISE BE DEEMED FILED UNDER SUCH ACTS.**

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**PROPOSAL NO. 2 APPROVAL OF THE CHOICEPOINT INC.  
DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

**General**

The ChoicePoint Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan, referred to as the DCP Plan, is intended to assist in attracting and retaining senior officers and directors who render significant services to ChoicePoint and our subsidiaries and to motivate these persons to achieve performance objectives related to our overall goal of increasing shareholder value. The board of directors adopted the DCP Plan in 1997 and it has been employed as a feature of the ChoicePoint directors' and executives' compensation program since its inception.

The purpose of the DCP Plan is to:

- provide unfunded deferred compensation to a select group of highly compensated management employees of ChoicePoint, including benefits that would have been received under the 401(k) Plan, but for limitations imposed under the Internal Revenue Code;
- permit members of this group of employees, as well as nonemployee members of our board of directors, to defer additional compensation;
- provide a supplemental executive retirement plan benefit to certain executives designated by ChoicePoint; and
- provide benefits relating to credits certain of our employees had under the Equifax Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan and the Equifax Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan at the time of ChoicePoint's spin-off from Equifax in 1997.

The DCP Plan is administered by ChoicePoint's chief financial officer and its vice president with responsibility for compensation and benefits, who constitute the plan administrator.

On June 30, 2003, the SEC approved a proposal by the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) to amend the NYSE's listing standards to require shareholder approval of all equity compensation plans and any material amendments to such plans. The NYSE adopted the new listing standard relating to equity compensation plans which became effective on June 30, 2003. Under this listing standard, NYSE-listed companies, such as ChoicePoint, are required to obtain shareholder approval for equity compensation plans and material amendments to such plans, subject to limited exceptions and transition rules for existing plans. As described below, awards under certain provisions of the DCP Plan are paid to participants in ChoicePoint common stock. Accordingly, ChoicePoint is submitting the DCP Plan for approval by the shareholders so that it may continue to grant awards payable in ChoicePoint common stock under those provisions of the DCP Plan. If the DCP Plan is not approved by the shareholders, ChoicePoint will not grant any further awards under the DCP Plan that are payable in ChoicePoint common stock, but it will continue to grant awards under the DCP Plan that are payable in cash and to operate the DCP Plan with respect to pre-existing awards payable in ChoicePoint common stock that did not require shareholder approval under the NYSE listing standard.

On February 2, 2004 the board of directors unanimously recommended that the DCP Plan be submitted to the shareholders for approval. If a quorum is present at the annual meeting, the DCP Plan will be approved if it receives the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on this proposal.

The board of directors believes approval of the DCP Plan is in the Company's best interest. The principal reason for adopting the DCP Plan is to assist in attracting and retaining talented senior officers and directors by providing a mechanism for deferring the receipt of compensation earned by certain executives and directors.

A summary description of the DCP Plan is set forth below. The full text of the DCP Plan is annexed to this proxy statement as APPENDIX A, and the following summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to APPENDIX A.

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*Eligible participants.* For each calendar year, the chief executive officer designates certain employees as eligible to participate in the DCP Plan. Currently twenty-six employees participate in the DCP Plan. In addition, all non-employee directors are immediately eligible to participate. So long as such a person has an undistributed benefit under the DCP Plan, he or she continues to be a participant even if he or she is no longer an employee or director.

*Plan benefits.* Benefits under the DCP Plan accumulate in accounts consisting of amounts of compensation which has been deferred on a pre-tax basis. The accounts will be credited with deemed investment earnings and losses.

*Participant Deferrals.* An active participant other than a non-employee director may elect to defer a percentage of his or her compensation (applicable either to all or to specified portions of the compensation) for the next calendar year as described below. An eligible participant in the 401(k) Plan may defer up to 6% of compensation (including bonuses, commissions and certain disability plan payments, other than non-cash compensation) which will be credited to an account referred to as the Excess Elective Contributions Account, but only beginning when the total of the participant's elective contributions under the 401(k) Plan reaches the maximum amount permissible. An eligible participant, who has not yet become eligible for the 401(k) Plan, may defer up to 6% of his compensation, which will be credited to an account referred to as the Matching Voluntary Contributions Pre-401(k) Account, beginning as soon as administratively possible and ending when the participant is eligible to participate in the 401(k) Plan. Any other voluntary participant deferrals will be credited to an Additional Voluntary Contributions Account when it otherwise would have been paid in cash (absent a deferral election).

A non-employee director may elect to defer up to 100% of his or her compensation (which includes all board fees), or a specified dollar amount of the compensation that would be otherwise payable, for the next calendar year. These deferrals will be credited to an account referred to as the Deferral Account as of the date when the amount would otherwise have been paid.

All percentage deferrals must be made in 1% increments. A deferral election must be completed by December 31st and will be effective until notification is provided to change or terminate the election prior to January 1st of a subsequent year. If eligibility to participate occurs after December 31st of any year, an election must be made within 30 days of the date of eligibility and will be applied to all compensation payable after the date of the election. Once an election is made, that election is irrevocable for the calendar year to which it applies. The ability to make deferrals will automatically terminate on the earliest to occur of the following: (1) when the participant ceases to be an employee or a non-employee director of ChoicePoint; (2) if ChoicePoint or the employer under the DCP Plan is deemed insolvent; (3) when the employee is no longer eligible to be a participant (in the case of employee participants); and (4) when the DCP Plan is terminated. An employee participant will not be eligible to defer amounts under the DCP Plan if he or she is suspended from making pre-tax contributions to the 401(k) Plan as a result of a 401(k) Plan hardship withdrawal.

*Company Contributions.* ChoicePoint will make certain contributions to the accounts of employee participants. Non-employee directors do not receive any contributions from ChoicePoint. If the participant is eligible for the 401(k) Plan, an account referred to as the Excess Matching Contribution Account will be credited with an amount equal to the portion of the matching elective contributions and matching voluntary contributions under the 401(k) Plan that the employer would have contributed under the 401(k) Plan if not for the limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. If the participant is not eligible for the 401(k) Plan, an account referred to as the Excess Matching Contribution Account will be credited with an amount equal to a percentage, as determined and communicated by the 401(k) Plan administrator, of the participant's deferrals into the Additional Voluntary Contributions Account (up to 6% of compensation).

In addition, an account referred to as the Excess Profit-Sharing Account will be credited with an amount equal to the portion of profit-sharing contributions made by ChoicePoint, and an account referred to as the Excess Transition Benefit Plan Account will be credited with an amount equal to the portion of transition benefit contributions made by ChoicePoint, which in either case the participant is prevented

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from receiving under the 401(k) Plan because of the limitation imposed under the Internal Revenue Code or because the definition of compensation under the 401(k) Plan does not include the amount of compensation deferred under the DCP Plan. ChoicePoint also may choose to credit to an account referred to as the Additional Company Contributions Account an amount determined from time to time in its sole discretion.

*Vesting.* Participants are fully vested in all amounts credited to their account for participant deferrals and Company contributions described above.

*Other Benefits.* In addition to the participant deferrals and Company contributions described above, the DCP Plan also provides two other benefits:

*Transferred Benefits.* For certain participants who consented in writing to the substitution of ChoicePoint for Equifax Inc. as the obligor with respect to liabilities to them under the Equifax Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan at the time of ChoicePoint's spin-off from Equifax in 1997, an amount equal to such liabilities was credited to an account for them referred to as the Transferred Benefit Account. These amounts were fully vested at the time they were credited to the transition benefit account.

*Supplemental Executive Retirement Benefits.* At the end of each calendar year, a credit will be issued to a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan Account, referred to as a SERP Account for each eligible participant. This contribution equals the dollar amount or percentage of the sum of the participant's base salary plus annual incentive pay that is provided for in the participant's employment agreement, if any, with ChoicePoint (or any other written agreement with ChoicePoint establishing such an amount or percentage). The amounts credited (as adjusted for earnings thereon) vest as follows:

credits to SERP Accounts made prior to January 1, 2002 were immediately 50% vested;

upon attainment of age 55, credits to SERP Accounts made prior to January 1, 2002 will be fully vested;

each credit made after January 1, 2002 will vest at the rate of 25% upon the last day of each calendar year following the year for which the credit is made (if the participant remains in the employment of ChoicePoint) until fully vested provided, however, that if there are fewer than four anniversaries of the last day of the calendar year following the year for which a credit is made prior to the participant attaining age 60, credits made after January 1, 2002 will vest ratably (33 1/3%, 50% or 100%) based on the number of anniversaries which will occur prior to the participant attaining age 60 (if the participant remains employed on said anniversary date), so that the participant will be fully vested on the anniversary coinciding with or preceding the date he or she attains age 60;

credits to SERP Accounts made prior to January 1, 2002, will be fully vested if the participant's employment terminates between the ages of 50 and 55 (other than for cause, as described below);

credits to SERP Accounts will be fully vested upon termination of employment for disability; and

credits to SERP Accounts will be fully vested upon a change in control, as described below.

The SERP Account and SERP benefit will be forfeited, however, if employment terminates for cause. For purposes of the DCP Plan, a termination of employment will be considered to be for cause if it results from the participant's engaging in an act of embezzlement, theft or infraction of any criminal law involving ChoicePoint or a related entity or engaging in activities directly competitive with ChoicePoint during the individual's employment with ChoicePoint.



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A change in control would occur, generally, when

ChoicePoint is merged or consolidated or reorganized into or with another corporation or other legal person, and as a result less than a majority of the voting shares of the surviving entity are held by ChoicePoint's shareholders prior to the transaction;

ChoicePoint sells or otherwise transfers all or substantially all of its assets to any other corporation or other legal person, and as a result less than a majority of the voting shares of the surviving entity are held by ChoicePoint's shareholders prior to the transaction;

a report on Schedule 13D or Schedule 14D-1 (or any successor schedule, form or report) is filed disclosing that any person has become the beneficial owner of securities representing 30% or more of ChoicePoint's outstanding shares;

ChoicePoint files a report or proxy statement with the SEC disclosing that a change in control of ChoicePoint has or may have occurred or will or may occur in the future pursuant to any then-existing contract or transaction; or

if during any period of two consecutive years, individuals who at the beginning of any such period constitute the directors of ChoicePoint cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority of our directors, unless the election, or the nomination for election by ChoicePoint's shareholders, of each director first elected during the period was approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the directors then still in office who were directors at the beginning of the period.

*Deemed Investment Earnings.* As of the last business day of each calendar month, each account under the DCP Plan will receive a credit for deemed investment earnings or losses that would have been made had the amounts in the accounts in fact been invested in the available funds. A participant will complete a deferral election form to elect investments which determine the deferred compensation investment credits. Changes can be made as often as once a month by completing a new form. If no election is made as to how the account is deemed to be invested, the account will receive investment credits as if it had been invested in the ChoicePoint Inc. Stock Fund (as described below). Also, Excess Matching Contribution Accounts, Excess Transition Benefit Plan Accounts and Excess Profit-Sharing Contributions Accounts made after January 1, 2002 (but not with respect to contributions prior to December 31, 2001) are deemed to be invested in the ChoicePoint Inc. Stock Fund, and SERP Accounts are deemed invested in the ChoicePoint Inc. Stock Fund while the participant is an active employee. For other accounts, the participant may make an investment election.

The following investment funds are currently available:

*Fixed Income Fund* the Fidelity U.S. Bond Index Portfolio under the 401(k) Plan or any equivalent fixed income fund that is designated by the plan administrator as the successor to the Fidelity U.S. Bond Index Portfolio;

*Equity Index Fund* the Spartan U.S. Equity Index Portfolio under the 401(k) Plan or any equivalent equity index fund that is designated by the plan administrator as successor to the Spartan U.S. Equity Index Portfolio;

*ChoicePoint Inc. Stock Fund* a hypothetical fund established for each participant to reflect the value of the participant's account invested in this fund. This fund is credited with shares and fractional shares of ChoicePoint common stock at the time of an addition to the fund that are equal to the dollar amount of the addition divided by the value of a share of ChoicePoint common stock at the date of the addition; and

*Short Term Income Fund* the Managed Income Portfolio under the 401(k) Plan or any equivalent short-term income fund that is designated by the plan administrator as the successor to the Managed Income Portfolio.

*Timing of Payment.* The payment of benefits may begin on the date the participant ceases to be an employee or non-employee director, the date on which the participant achieves a specified age, or the

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earlier or later of these dates or as otherwise provided by the plan administrator. Payments must begin by the date the participant attains the age of 71.

*Distribution of Benefits.* Payment of benefits under the DCP Plan will begin within 30 days after the date specified in the deferral election form unless otherwise provided by the plan administrator.

*Period of Deferral.* The timing and form of payment of the benefits is determined by the participant. The most recent deferral election form that has been in effect for at least 12 months will govern. If the value of the account is under \$5,000 at the time of the distribution, the DCP Plan will pay out a lump sum, regardless of the form of payment elected. If no form of payment is elected, benefits will be paid as a lump sum.

*Form of Payment.* The benefits under the DCP Plan may be in the form of a lump sum payment or in annual installments for a period not exceeding 20 years. Distributions of Excess Matching Contribution Accounts, Excess Transition Benefit Plan Accounts, Excess Profit-Sharing Accounts (for post-2001 calendar years) and SERP Accounts will be made in ChoicePoint common stock, except that the portion of any contribution to a SERP Account made for 2003 which represents a percentage of compensation for a participant which is greater than the percentage contributed for the participant for 2002 shall be distributed in cash, and distributions of all other accounts will be made in cash. Minimum annual installment payments will be \$500.

*Maximum Number of Shares Available For Certain Benefits.* The maximum aggregate number of shares of ChoicePoint common stock which may be granted, subsequent to February 2, 2004, to Excess Profit-Sharing Accounts, Excess Transition Benefit Plan Accounts and SERP Accounts, is three hundred fifty thousand (350,000). This number will be adjusted, as appropriate, for stock dividends, stock splits, combination of shares and recapitalizations. Any shares of common stock distributed will be treasury shares or shares purchased on the open market.

*SERP Benefit Elections.* By filing an election, the participant may elect separately (1) that payment of the SERP Account and Transferred Benefit Account will begin on the date following termination of employment on which the participant attains an age specified in the election (other than terminations for cause), and (2) to receive the SERP benefit and Transferred Benefit in the form of a lump sum payment or in annual installments for a period not exceeding 20 years. If an age is specified, the age must not be less than 55 or more than 71 years (subject to the DCP plan's change in control and disability provisions).

*SERP Benefits Upon Disability.* In the event of a participant's disability, distribution of his or her SERP Account will be made or begun in accordance with the participant's separate election with respect to SERP benefits, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the plan administrator.

*Hardship Withdrawals.* The plan administrator has the discretion to grant a distribution to a participant on account of hardship and will apply the general guidelines used under IRS regulations governing hardship withdrawals from qualified plans.

*Death Benefits.* One or more persons or legal entities may be named as a beneficiary, as well as contingent beneficiaries, and the allocation may be made among the beneficiaries. In the absence of such a designation or if no surviving beneficiary is available at the participant's death, benefits under the DCP Plan will be paid to the participant's estate. Upon a participant's death, benefits will be paid as soon as practicable to the beneficiaries according to the directions specified in the deferral election form. The form may specify that benefits will be paid in a lump sum, in annual installments for a period not exceeding five years, in the form currently being paid (if benefit payments have already begun to the participant), or as otherwise made available by the plan administrator in the deferral election form. If not specified, payment will be made in a lump sum.

*Limitations.* Nothing in the DCP Plan constitutes the creation of a trust or other fiduciary relationship between an employer and any participant, beneficiary or any other person. The DCP Plan is designed to be an unfunded, nonqualified plan. The DCP Plan should not be deemed to create a trust or lien in favor of any participant or beneficiary on any assets of any employer. No participant or beneficiary

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or any other person has any preferred claim on, or any beneficial ownership interest in, any assets of an employer prior to the time that the assets are paid under the DCP Plan. Each participant and beneficiary has the status of a general unsecured creditor. Nothing in the DCP Plan should be construed as guaranteeing future employment or service as a director to any participant.

*Assignment.* No right or interest under the DCP Plan of any participant or beneficiary is assignable or transferable in any manner or subject to alienation, anticipation, sale, pledge, encumbrance or other legal process or in any manner liable for or subject to the debts or liabilities of the participant or beneficiary.

*Amendment.* The compensation committee of the board of directors may at any time amend any or all of the provisions of the DCP Plan, except that (1) no such amendment may adversely affect any participant's benefit as of the date of the amendment, and (2) no such amendment may suspend the crediting of earnings on the balance of a participant's account, until the entire balance of the account has been distributed, in either case, without the prior written consent of the affected participant. In addition, the plan administrator has the authority to adopt amendments to the DCP Plan in order to comply with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations or for other purposes if consistent with the overall compensation and benefits policy of ChoicePoint.

*Termination.* The compensation committee of the board of directors, in its sole discretion, may terminate the DCP Plan at any time and for any reason whatsoever, except that (1) no such termination may adversely affect any participant's benefit as of the date of such termination, and (2) no such termination may suspend the crediting of earnings on the balance of a participant's account, until the entire balance of the account has been distributed, in either case, without the prior written consent of the affected participant. Written notice of any termination will be given to the participants as soon as practicable. If the DCP Plan is terminated, ChoicePoint, in its sole and absolute discretion, retains the right to change the time and form of distribution of participants' benefits, including requiring that all amounts credited to participants' accounts be immediately distributed in the form of a lump sum payment. In the absence of a prior termination, the DCP Plan shall nonetheless be terminated and no further benefits granted thereunder, on April 28, 2014.

Any corporation that is an employer under the DCP Plan other than ChoicePoint may elect to withdraw from the DCP Plan, and such a withdrawal will constitute a termination of the DCP Plan as to that corporation. However, the terminating corporation will continue to be an employer for purposes of the DCP Plan as to participants and beneficiaries to whom it owes obligations.

*Federal income tax considerations.* With respect to each DCP Plan participant, the DCP Plan is intended to result in the deferral of income for federal income tax purposes until the time benefits are actually received by the participant. Under the rules generally applicable to nonqualified deferred compensation, in general, a participant must include compensation in income only when the compensation is actually or constructively received. IRS guidelines provide, in general, that the deferral of compensation will not be deemed to result in constructive receipt of the compensation income where the election to defer is made and the terms of deferral are fixed prior to the beginning of the period of service (in most cases, the calendar year) for which the compensation is payable.

To the extent that a participant recognizes compensation income in the circumstances described above, the participant's employer or entity for which the participant provides services will be entitled to a corresponding deduction provided, among other things, that such deduction meets the test of reasonableness, is an ordinary and necessary business expense, and is not disallowed by the \$1 million limitation on certain executive compensation.

In general, for employment tax purposes, amounts deferred under the DCP Plan by employees are includible in wages subject to tax when the amounts are earned (or when they vest, in the case of amounts credited to a participant's SERP Account), notwithstanding the fact that for federal income tax purposes the same amounts will not be taxable until actually or constructively received.

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The foregoing is only a summary. It is not intended as a complete description of federal, state or local income tax consequences of participation in the DCP Plan, and it does not purport to address all federal tax consequences, or other tax consequences associated with participation. In particular, this summary does not address foreign, state or local tax consequences.

**THE CHOICEPOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE CHOICEPOINT INC. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN.**

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**REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The audit committee oversees the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the board of directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process including the systems of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the audit committee reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements to be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 with management.

In connection with their audit of the Company's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003, the Company's independent public accountants, Deloitte & Touche LLP (Deloitte), were responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of the Company's audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles. The audit committee discussed with Deloitte the matters required by Statement of Accounting Standards No. 61, as amended.

In addition, the audit committee received from and discussed with Deloitte the written disclosures and letter from Deloitte required by the Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 regarding their independence.

The members of the audit committee are independent as required by the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and the new independence requirements promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Company's board of directors has approved a written charter for the audit committee. The charter is reviewed annually and was most recently amended and approved on February 26, 2004. A copy of the charter, as amended, is attached to this proxy statement as APPENDIX B.

The audit committee discussed with the Company's internal auditors and independent public accountants the overall scope and plans for their respective audits. The audit committee meets with the internal auditors and independent public accountants, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of the Company's internal controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the audit committee recommended to the board of directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The audit committee and the board have also approved, subject to shareholder ratification, the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent public accountants for the year ending December 31, 2004.

The audit committee approved a policy prohibiting the Company from hiring into a senior financial reporting role any current or former employee of the independent public accountants who was a member of the audit engagement team within the past year.

Audit Committee

THOMAS M. COUGHLIN (*Chairman*)

JAMES M. DENNY

JOHN B. MCCOY

March 19, 2004

**THE FOREGOING REPORT SHOULD NOT BE DEEMED INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE BY ANY GENERAL STATEMENT INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THIS PROXY STATEMENT INTO ANY FILING UNDER THE ACTS, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT CHOICEPOINT SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATES THIS INFORMATION BY REFERENCE, AND SHALL NOT OTHERWISE BE DEEMED FILED UNDER SUCH ACTS.**

**Table of Contents****PROPOSAL NO. 3 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF  
CHOICEPOINT INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS****General**

The ChoicePoint board of directors has selected Deloitte & Touche LLP as ChoicePoint's independent public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004 and recommends that the shareholders vote for the ratification of such appointment. Notwithstanding the selection, the board of directors, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of new independent public accountants at any time during the year if the board of directors determines that such a change would be in the best interests of ChoicePoint and its shareholders. A representative of Deloitte & Touche LLP will be present at the annual meeting, will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

**THE CHOICEPOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP AS CHOICEPOINT'S INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004.**

**AUDIT FEES AND OTHER FEES**

During fiscal years 2002 and 2003, ChoicePoint retained Deloitte & Touche LLP to provide services in the following categories and amounts:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Audit Fees(1)	\$501,934	\$439,000
Audit-Related Fees(2)	\$153,525	\$617,601
Tax Fees(3)	\$ 0	\$ 0
All Other Fees(4)	\$ 0	\$ 0

- (1) Audit fees include audit of the annual financial statements and quarterly reviews.
- (2) Audit-related fees include benefit plan audits, agreed-upon procedures reports, acquisitions, accounting consultations and the re-audit of 2001 financial statements in connection with a divestiture.
- (3) No tax services were provided by Deloitte and Touche LLP for fiscal 2002 or 2003.
- (4) No other services were provided by Deloitte and Touche LLP for fiscal 2002 or 2003.

Pursuant to its charter, the audit committee must pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be performed by the independent public accountants. Commencing in 2002, as a matter of corporate policy, the Company's independent public accountants will not perform any services other than audit and audit-related services.

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**OTHER MATTERS**

**ChoicePoint Shareholder Proposals**

Any shareholder proposal, including nominations for candidates for election as directors, intended for inclusion in the proxy statement for ChoicePoint's 2005 annual meeting of shareholders must be received by ChoicePoint at its principal executive offices on or before November 21, 2004. In accordance with ChoicePoint's bylaws, any shareholder proposal submitted for consideration at next year's annual meeting (even if not submitted for inclusion in the proxy statement) and any shareholder director nomination must be received by ChoicePoint at its principal executive offices on or before November 21, 2004 and must comply with the written notice requirements specified in ChoicePoint's bylaws or such proposal or nomination will be considered out of order and will not be acted upon at ChoicePoint's 2005 annual meeting of shareholders.

**Certain Relationships and Related Transactions**

During 2003, Mr. Marcus served as Director Emeritus of The Home Depot, Inc. and Ms. Hill and Mr. Langone both served as directors of The Home Depot, Inc. During 2003, the Company performed pre-employment background and drug testing services for The Home Depot, Inc. totaling approximately \$15.6 million (\$11.7 million net of pass-through expenses). These services were the result of arm's length negotiations conducted in the ordinary course of business.

Mr. Murray served as a director of FleetBoston Financial Corporation in 2003. In 2002, ChoicePoint entered into a three-year revolving credit facility with a total commitment of \$325 million, in which Fleet National Bank, a subsidiary of FleetBoston Financial Corporation, participates in the amount of \$25 million. As of March 1, 2004, there are no borrowings outstanding under the revolver. Total interest paid to Fleet National Bank in 2003 relating to this transaction was approximately \$83,000. ChoicePoint also has a synthetic lease for a total commitment of up to \$48 million, in which Fleet National Bank participates in the amount of \$13.8 million. As of March 1, 2004, the outstanding balance for the synthetic lease was \$42.3 million of which ChoicePoint is liable to Fleet National Bank for \$12.2 million. Total interest paid to Fleet National Bank in 2003 for this transaction was approximately \$268,000. In addition, the Company provided public record information services in 2003 for FleetBoston Financial Corporation for approximately \$30,000. The credit facility, synthetic lease and the information services performed were the results of arm's length negotiations conducted in the ordinary course of business.

Until July 1, 2003, Mr. Murray served as a director of Allmerica Financial Corporation. During 2003, the Company provided database claims information and credentialing services for Allmerica Financial Corporation totaling approximately \$3.9 million. These services were the result of arm's length negotiations conducted in the ordinary course of business.

**ChoicePoint Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act and the regulations of the SEC require ChoicePoint's executive officers, directors and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of the ChoicePoint common stock to file initial reports of ownership and changes in ownership of the ChoicePoint common stock with the SEC and the NYSE. Executive officers, directors and ChoicePoint 10% shareholders are required by the regulations of the SEC to furnish ChoicePoint with copies of all reports that they file pursuant to Section 16(a). In addition, Item 405 of Regulation S-K requires ChoicePoint to identify in its Proxy Statement each reporting person that failed to file on a timely basis reports required by Section 16(a) during the most recent fiscal year or prior fiscal years. To ChoicePoint's knowledge, based upon a review of the copies of such forms furnished to ChoicePoint and written representations from ChoicePoint's executive officers and directors, all filing requirements applicable to ChoicePoint's executive officers, directors and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of the ChoicePoint common stock complied with the applicable reporting requirements for 2003, except for Dr. Hamre and Ms. Hill, each of whom had one late filing due to an administrative error and except for Messrs. Langone and Marcus, who

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inadvertently under-reported the total number of ChoicePoint shares they own by 1,165 shares and 11,400 shares, respectively, due to clerical errors. The share amounts were corrected in subsequent filings.

**Annual Report to Shareholders/ Annual Report on Form 10-K**

The Annual Report to Shareholders of ChoicePoint Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2003, including audited financial statements, accompanies this proxy statement. The Annual Report does not form any part of the material for the solicitation of proxies. Additionally, ChoicePoint files an Annual Report on Form 10-K with the SEC. **A COPY OF CHOICEPOINT'S MOST RECENT FORM 10-K REPORT WILL BE FURNISHED WITHOUT CHARGE TO ANY SHAREHOLDER WHO MAKES WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE CORPORATE SECRETARY, CHOICEPOINT INC., 1000 ALDERMAN DRIVE, ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA 30005.**

**Other Matters at the Annual Meeting**

ChoicePoint is unaware of any matter to be presented at the ChoicePoint annual meeting other than as described in this proxy statement. If other matters are properly presented at the ChoicePoint annual meeting, the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy will have authority to vote all properly executed proxies in accordance with their judgment on any such matter, including, without limitation, any proposal to adjourn or postpone the ChoicePoint annual meeting.

**Expenses of Solicitation**

ChoicePoint has retained Morrow & Co., Inc. to aid in the solicitation of proxies. ChoicePoint estimates the cost of these services to be approximately \$6,000, plus out-of-pocket expenses. The cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by ChoicePoint. Proxies may be solicited by personal interview, mail or telephone. In addition, ChoicePoint may reimburse brokerage firms and other persons representing beneficial owners of shares of ChoicePoint common stock for their expenses in forwarding solicitation materials to beneficial owners. Proxies may also be solicited by ChoicePoint's executive officers, directors and regular employees, without additional compensation, personally or by telephone or facsimile transmission.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

David W. Davis  
*Corporate Secretary*

Alpharetta, Georgia  
March 19, 2004



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**APPENDIX A**

**CHOICEPOINT INC.**

**DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

**(EFFECTIVE JULY 30, 1997)**

**(Restated to include Amendments as of February 2, 2004)**

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