

CHANG MICHAEL M Y  
 Form 4  
 December 27, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 CHANG MICHAEL M Y

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 777 NORTH BROADWAY  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/20/2012

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |     | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-----|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | (D) |   |  |                                   | Price        |
| Common Stock                    | 12/20/2012                           |  | G                              | V | 91,056  | D   | \$ 0  | 19,542   | D                                 |              |
| Common Stock                    | 12/20/2012                           |  | G                              | V | 45,528  | A   | \$ 0  | 180,000 <sup>(1)</sup>                                   | I                                 | By son       |
| Common Stock                    | 12/20/2012                           |  | G                              | V | 45,528  | A   | \$ 0  | 180,000 <sup>(1)</sup>                                   | I                                 | By daughter  |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |     |   | 208,812  | I                                 | Family Trust |

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

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option                               | \$ 19.925  |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/16/2004 <sup>(2)</sup> 01/16/2013                     | Common Stock  | 3,800                         |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 24.8  |                                      |  |                                |   | 11/20/2004 <sup>(2)</sup> 11/20/2013                     | Common Stock  | 11,000                        |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 37  |                                      |  |                                |   | 02/17/2006 <sup>(2)</sup> 02/17/2015                     | Common Stock  | 3,500                         |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 36.24   |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/25/2007 <sup>(2)</sup> 01/25/2016                     | Common Stock  | 3,500                         |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 23.37   |                                      |  |                                |   | 02/21/2009 <sup>(3)</sup> 02/21/2018                     | Common Stock  | 3,500                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| CHANG MICHAEL M Y<br>777 NORTH BROADWAY<br>LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

Michael M. Y.  
Chang 12/27/2012

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of these securities, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.
- (2) The option is fully exercisable.
- (3) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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