

W S S I M

WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

2014  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS



# LETTERS TO STOCKHOLDERS

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

POTTERY BARN POTTERY BARN KIDS PBTEEN WILLIAMS-SONOMA WILLIAMS-SONOMA HOME WEST ELM MARK AND GRAHAM REJUVENATION

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To Our Stockholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that fiscal 2014 was yet another year of record performance for our company. Net revenues reached \$4.7 billion, with 7.1% comparable brand revenue growth, and diluted earnings per share grew 15% to \$3.24. In fiscal 2014, we experienced growth in all of our brands – Pottery Barn, Williams-Sonoma, West Elm, Pottery Barn Kids, PBteen, Rejuvenation, and Mark and Graham – across both our retail and e-commerce channels. Our highly-profitable e-commerce business represented over 50% of total revenue.

Our Board is focused on creating long-term value for our stockholders. In fiscal 2014, our company made progress against its strategic growth initiatives, including strengthening our brands, expanding globally, developing new businesses, investing in our supply chain and investing in e-commerce. Our innovative, exclusive products and our high-service multi-channel model, along with brand-specific initiatives, led to strong performance in our established and emerging brands. We continued to increase our global presence by opening new stores in Australia and expanding our network of franchised stores. Our franchise partners now operate 28 stores in the Middle East and 2 stores in the Philippines, and we signed an agreement with a new franchise partner to operate stores and e-commerce websites in Mexico. In our supply chain, we completed the insourcing of our foreign buying offices and further insourced our furniture delivery operations. Finally, we continued to invest in technology to support our multi-channel platform and implemented technology enhancements to improve customer service and advance the flexibility and capacity of our e-commerce platform.

We remain grateful to our stockholders for your ongoing confidence in our company. On your behalf, I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their continued support and guidance. I would also like to thank Michael Lynch, who is not standing for reelection upon expiration of his current term, for his many years of dedicated service to the company. Michael has advised the company since our initial public offering in 1983, and he has served as a valuable member of the Board for the past 15 years. His contributions will be missed. I also thank our customers, vendors and other business partners for their support. I particularly wish to express our deep appreciation to our President and Chief Executive Officer, Laura Alber, her executive team, and all of our associates for continuing to deliver results and drive our long-term strategic growth initiatives. Without them, none of this would have been possible.

We look forward to continued success in 2015 and beyond.

Adrian D.P. Bellamy  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



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Fellow Stockholders,

Back in early October, I was in Sonoma, California. We were opening (or shall I say re-opening) a Williams-Sonoma store in the original location of Chuck Williams' first store – opened in 1956. We went to great lengths to replicate the original store, including much of the merchandise assortment. The look and feel, and the customer experience, was surprisingly relevant today. The next morning, we cooked breakfast, inviting the entire town of Sonoma to join us in the Plaza. About 2,000 people showed up to show their appreciation – of us returning to our roots, and of course, to eat the pancakes.

This experience was very emotional for all of us who were there, and made me realize, once again, how far this company has come in its 58-year life and in the 20 years since I first joined. We have been so fortunate to attract such outstanding associates and supplier partners, who have accepted the responsibility of stewardship of this great brand, while constantly seeking ways to be relevant to the needs and desires of today's consumer. The experience reinforced for me the importance, and the rewards, of staying true to our values, and of always placing the customer at the center of everything we do.

Today, we have a strong portfolio of brands. In each brand, we have passionate stewards who anticipate and respond to customers' needs with products and services that exceed their expectations.

And we believe that the growth opportunities we see ahead of us are greater than any in our history. What makes us think that, and why do we believe that we will continue to produce growth in revenues and earnings while delivering greater value to our customers and to you, our stockholders, in an increasingly competitive and rapidly changing retail environment?

The results that we have achieved over the past several years, including 2014, reinforce our confidence.

We delivered strong performance in 2014, with net revenues growing 7% to \$4.7 billion and diluted earnings per share growing 15% to \$3.24. We experienced growth in all of our brands and across our channels, highlighted by our highly profitable e-commerce business, which now accounts for over 50% of total revenues. At the same time, we continued to invest in building our brands and the multi-channel platform supporting them.

Our Williams-Sonoma brand continues to post improving results. We see excellent growth ahead for our Pottery Barn brands based on our "One Home" strategy. And the West Elm brand grew in excess of 20% for the fifth year in a row. Our newer "emerging" brands, Mark and Graham and Rejuvenation, achieved key milestones, increasing our confidence that they can be significant contributors to future growth. In addition, we invested in our longer-term objective of expanding our global presence with our franchise partners and company-owned stores.

We have big plans for the future, and we remain committed to creating sustainable stockholder value along the way. The rush of brick-and-mortar and e-commerce "pure-plays" to embrace multi-channel retailing further validates our longstanding approach to our business and places us at the forefront of retail innovation.

We have been a multi-channel retailer for over four decades. We know that achieving excellence in multi-channel does not come easily. Our senior leadership team averages almost fifteen years with the company. We believe that multi-channel retailing is both art and science. We began with a catalog business, and then, over the past fifteen years, have developed an e-commerce expertise that is one of the most advanced in our category and one of the best in all of retail. E-commerce penetration in our categories, as a percent of total sales, is expected to grow over the next decade, which provides us the opportunity to further increase our market share and our operating margins.

Our catalogs and retail stores remain critical components of our strategy. They bring our brands to life. We are developing new store designs that will provide a more immersive experience and complement the high-touch, personalized service that has been our hallmark. Our catalogs are evolving, with new formats that target customers' specialized interests, inspiring our customers with cooking and entertaining ideas, as well as ways to help them create the home of their dreams.

We know that we will only be successful in the future if we can continue to offer our customers outstanding products. We see ourselves as both brand creators and brand builders – offering products that address our customers' needs with merchandise that enhances their lifestyles at each life-stage. Today, we create, design, and have contract manufactured almost ninety percent of what we sell. This capability will allow us to continue to grow our existing brands and build new ones. We are always looking for “white space” – customer needs that are not being adequately addressed.

We will extend our leadership position with technology investments to support our supply chain, our websites, and our analytics capability. Over the next several years, we plan to complete the transition to a more flexible fulfillment infrastructure, implement an advanced inventory planning system, and add enhancements to our marketing systems to leverage our data science expertise. These investments will reduce costs, increase our flexibility, and help us deliver more value to our customers.

Each year, we strive to be ever better corporate citizens and to engage in meaningful ways – from the communities where we have a presence to the countries around the world where we source our merchandise. We support a range of philanthropic efforts – from matching gift programs that amplify our associates' giving, to brand and corporate-wide initiatives. In 2014, we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> year of participation in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Thanks & Giving Campaign. Our generous customers and associates have raised over \$30 million in support of the children of St. Jude. We also pledged to raise an additional \$30 million. We will be the presenting sponsor of the St. Jude Cure4Kids website, a free website dedicated to improving health care for children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases, by offering first-rate content for continuing education as well as web communication tools to be shared among health professionals around the globe.

Each of our brands supports a meaningful initiative centered on our corporate philanthropy vision of supporting children and families in need. The Williams-Sonoma brand supports Share our Strength, whose goal is to provide healthy school lunches for underprivileged children. Pottery Barn's “Give a Little” program is founded on the belief that everyone deserves a dignified and safe place to call home. As part of this campaign, Pottery Barn has given grants to 22 shelters across the United States. In 2014, West Elm became the first home retailer to offer Fair Trade Certified products, delivering a premium directly back to the workers to fund additional healthcare.

To achieve our goals we must continue to invest in building the best team in retail. To do that, we have to be a great place to work. And increasingly, we are being recognized as such. In 2014, UC Davis Graduate School of Management ranked Williams-Sonoma, Inc. #1 in gender equity among the 400 largest California companies. In addition, earlier this year, the National Association of Female Executives named Williams-Sonoma, Inc. as one of the 50 best companies to work for executive women. We continue to invest significantly in our inclusion and diversity programs across the company in order to advance our company culture priorities and develop a deeper understanding of our ever expanding global customer-base.



Throughout the year, we celebrated the accomplishments of a record number of our associates at special events recognizing their anniversaries from five to thirty-five years with the company. We are attracting and, as importantly, retaining some of the very best talent in all of retail. We have a strong culture that recognizes and rewards performance and the importance of team contribution. We are aligned, motivated, and very excited about our future and the value we will deliver to our customers, and to you, our loyal stockholders.

Laura J. Alber  
President, Chief Executive Officer and Director



*These letters contain forward-looking statements. Please see the section titled “Forward-Looking Statements” on page 1 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2015, which is part of this Annual Report to Stockholders, for important cautionary language regarding these statements.*

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# FORM 10-K

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

POTTERY BARN POTTERY BARN KIDS PBTEEN WILLIAMS-SONOMA WILLIAMS-SONOMA HOME WEST ELM MARK AND GRAHAM REJUVENATION

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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One):

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended February 1, 2015.

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 001-14077

**WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**94-2203880**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**94109**

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (415) 421-7900

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Common Stock, \$.01 par value

(Title of class)

New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

(Name of each exchange on which registered)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)  Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

As of August 3, 2014, the approximate aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates was 6,206,368,000. It is assumed for purposes of this computation that an affiliate includes all persons as of August 3, 2014 listed as executive officers and directors with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This aggregate market value includes all shares held in the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Stock Fund within the registrant's 401(k) Plan.

As of March 30, 2015, 91,642,370 shares of the registrant's common stock were outstanding.

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## DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of our definitive Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, also referred to in this Annual Report on Form 10-K as our Proxy Statement, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, have been incorporated in Part III hereof.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K and the letters to stockholders contained in this Annual Report contain forward-looking statements within the “safe harbor” provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that involve risks and uncertainties, as well as assumptions that, if they do not fully materialize or prove incorrect, could cause our business and operating results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements related to: projections of earnings, revenues, growth and other financial items; the strength and growth of our business and our brands; our beliefs about our competitive position, relative performance and our ability to leverage our competitive advantages; the plans, strategies, initiatives and objectives of management for future operations; our brands and our products, including our ability to introduce new brands, new products and product lines and bring in new customers; our belief that our direct-mail catalogs and the Internet act as a cost-efficient means of testing market acceptance of new products and new brands; the complementary nature of our e-commerce and retail channels; our marketing efforts; our global business, including franchising and other third party arrangements in the Middle East, the Philippines and Mexico, and operations in Australia and the United Kingdom; our ability to attract new customers; the seasonal variations in demand; our ability to recruit, retain and motivate skilled personnel; our belief in the reasonableness of the steps taken to protect the security and confidentiality of the information we collect; our belief in the adequacy of our facilities and the availability of suitable additional or substitute space; our belief in the ultimate resolution of current legal proceedings; the payment of dividends; our stock repurchase program; our long-term strategic growth initiatives; investing in our e-commerce platform, our supply chain initiatives and new stores; our longer-term growth initiatives; the growth opportunities of our brands and overall business; penetration of our e-commerce channel; our position to deliver on our growth initiatives; our capital allocation strategy in fiscal 2015; our planned use of cash in fiscal 2015; our compliance with financial covenants; our belief that our cash on hand and available credit facilities will provide adequate liquidity for our business operations over the next 12 months; our belief regarding the effects of potential losses under our indemnification obligations; the impact of inflation; the effects of changes in our inventory reserves; the impact of new accounting pronouncements; and statements of belief and statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. You can identify these and other forward-looking statements by the use of words such as “will,” “may,” “should,” “expects,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “intends,” “potential,” “continue,” or the negative of such terms, or other comparable terminology.

The risks, uncertainties and assumptions referred to above that could cause our results to differ materially from the results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those discussed under the heading “Risk Factors” in Item 1A hereto and the risks, uncertainties and assumptions discussed from time to time in our other public filings and public announcements. All forward-looking statements included in this document are based on information available to us as of the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to update these forward-looking statements.

**WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.**  
**ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 1, 2015**

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## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### OVERVIEW

Williams-Sonoma, Inc., incorporated in 1973, is a multi-channel specialty retailer of high quality products for the home.

In 1956, our founder, Chuck Williams, turned a passion for cooking and eating with friends into a small business with a big idea. He opened a store in Sonoma, California, to sell the French cookware that intrigued him while visiting Europe but that could not be found in America. Chuck's business, which set a standard for customer service, took off and helped fuel a revolution in American cooking and entertaining that continues today.

In the decades that followed, the quality of our products, our ability to identify new opportunities in the market and our people-first approach to business have facilitated our expansion beyond the kitchen into nearly every area of the home. Additionally, by embracing new technologies and customer-engagement strategies as they emerge, we are able to continually refine our best-in-class approach to multi-channel retailing.

Today, Williams-Sonoma, Inc. is one of the United States' largest e-commerce retailers with some of the best known and most beloved brands in home furnishings. We currently operate retail stores in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Australia, and the United Kingdom, and franchise our brands to third parties in a number of countries in the Middle East and the Philippines. Our products are also available to customers through our catalogs and online worldwide.

#### *Williams-Sonoma*

From the beginning, our namesake brand, Williams-Sonoma, has been bringing people together around food. A leading specialty retailer of high-quality products for the kitchen and home, the brand seeks to provide world-class service and an engaging customer experience. Williams-Sonoma products include everything for cooking, dining and entertaining, including: cookware, tools, electrics, cutlery, tabletop and bar, outdoor, furniture and a vast library of cookbooks. The brand also includes Williams-Sonoma Home, a premium concept that offers classic home furnishings and decorative accessories, extending the Williams-Sonoma lifestyle beyond the kitchen into every room of the home.

#### *Pottery Barn*

Established in 1949 and acquired by Williams-Sonoma, Inc. in 1986, Pottery Barn is a premier multi-channel home furnishings retailer. The brand was founded on the idea that home furnishings should be exceptional in comfort, quality, style and value. Pottery Barn stores, website, and catalogs are specially designed to make shopping an enjoyable experience, with inspirational lifestyle displays dedicated to every space in the home. Pottery Barn products include furniture, bedding, bathroom accessories, rugs, curtains, lighting, tabletop, outdoor and decorative accessories.

#### *Pottery Barn Kids*

Launched in 1999, Pottery Barn Kids serves as an inspirational destination for creating childhood memories by decorating nurseries, bedrooms and play spaces. Pottery Barn Kids offers exclusive, innovative and high-quality products designed specifically for creating magical spaces where children can play, laugh, learn and grow.

#### *West Elm*

Since its launch in 2002, West Elm has been helping customers express their personal style at home with authentic, affordable and approachable products. Each season, West Elm's talented in-house team of designers create a collection that cannot be found anywhere else, and work with artists and independent designers both globally and locally to develop collaborations that are exclusive to the brand. The brand also works closely with organizations that support the development of craft and artisan skills to offer handcrafted and one-of-a-kind discoveries from around the world. West Elm offers a complete assortment of products including furniture, bedding, bathroom accessories, rugs, curtains, lighting, decorative accessories, dinnerware, kitchen essentials, and gifts.

### *PBteen*

Launched in 2003, PBteen is the first home concept to focus exclusively on the teen market. The brand offers a complete line of furniture, bedding, lighting, decorative accents and more for teen bedrooms, dorm rooms, study spaces and lounges. PBteen's innovative products are specifically designed to help teens create a comfortable and stylish room that reflects their own individual aesthetic.

### *Rejuvenation*

Rejuvenation, founded in 1977 with a passion for old buildings, vintage lighting and house parts and great design, was acquired by Williams-Sonoma, Inc. in 2011. Inspired by history and period authenticity, Rejuvenation's lighting and home-goods product lines span periods back to the 1870s. With manufacturing facilities in Portland, Oregon, Rejuvenation offers a wide assortment of high-quality lights, hardware, furniture and home décor.

### *Mark and Graham*

Launched in late 2012, Mark and Graham is designed to be a premier destination for personalized gift buying. With over 100 monograms and font types to choose from, a Mark and Graham purchase is uniquely personal. The brand's product lines include women's and men's accessories, small leather goods, jewelry, key item apparel, paper, entertaining and bar, home décor, and seasonal items.

## **E-COMMERCE OPERATIONS**

Prior to the third quarter of fiscal 2014, we referred to the e-commerce channel as the direct-to-customer channel. As of February 1, 2015, the e-commerce channel had the following merchandising strategies: Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, West Elm, PBteen, Williams-Sonoma Home, Rejuvenation and Mark and Graham, which sell our products through our e-commerce websites and direct-mail catalogs. We offer shipping from many of our brands to countries worldwide, while our catalogs reach customers across the U.S. and Australia. Of our merchandising strategies, the Pottery Barn brand and its extensions continue to be the largest source of revenue in the e-commerce channel. The e-commerce channel complements the retail channel by building brand awareness and acting as an effective advertising vehicle. In addition, we believe that our e-commerce websites and our direct-mail catalogs act as a cost-efficient means of testing market acceptance of new products and new brands. Leveraging these insights and our multi-channel positioning, our marketing efforts, including the use of online advertising and the circulation of catalogs, are targeted toward driving sales to all of our channels, including retail. Consistent with our published privacy policies, we send our catalogs to addresses from our proprietary customer list, as well as to addresses from lists of other mail order direct marketers, magazines and companies with which we establish a business relationship. In accordance with prevailing industry practice and our privacy policies, we may also rent our list to select mailers. Our customer mailings are continually updated to include new prospects and to eliminate non-responders.

Detailed financial information about the e-commerce channel is found in Note L to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

## **RETAIL STORES**

As of February 1, 2015, the retail channel had the following merchandising strategies: Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, West Elm and Rejuvenation, operating 601 stores comprised of 562 stores in 44 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, 25 stores in Canada, 13 stores in Australia and 1 store in the United Kingdom. This represents 243 Williams-Sonoma, 199 Pottery Barn, 85 Pottery Barn Kids, 69 West Elm and 5 Rejuvenation stores.

We also have multi-year franchise agreements with third parties that currently operate 30 franchised stores in a number of countries in the Middle East and the Philippines. Additionally, in fiscal 2014, we entered into a franchise agreement with an unaffiliated franchisee to operate stores and e-commerce websites in Mexico, beginning in 2015. The retail business complements the e-commerce business by building brand awareness and attracting new customers to our brands. Our retail stores serve as billboards for our brands, which we believe inspires our customers to shop online and through our catalogs.

Detailed financial information about the retail channel is found in Note L to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

## **SUPPLIERS**

We purchase our merchandise from numerous foreign and domestic manufacturers and importers, the largest of which accounted for approximately 4% of our purchases during fiscal 2014. Approximately 64% of our merchandise purchases in fiscal 2014 were sourced from foreign vendors in 51 countries, predominantly in Asia and Europe, of which approximately 98% were negotiated and paid for in U.S. dollars.

## **COMPETITION AND SEASONALITY**

The specialty retail business is highly competitive. Our specialty retail stores, e-commerce websites and direct-mail catalogs compete with other retailers, including large department stores, discount retailers, other specialty retailers offering home-centered assortments, other e-commerce websites and other direct-mail catalogs. The substantial sales growth in the direct-to-customer industry within the last decade, particularly in e-commerce, has encouraged the entry of many new competitors and an increase in competition from established companies. In addition, we face increased competition from discount retailers who, in the past, may not have competed with us or to this degree. We compete on the basis of our brand authority, the quality of our merchandise, service to our customers, our proprietary customer list, our e-commerce websites and our marketing capabilities, as well as the location and appearance of our stores. We believe that we compare favorably with many of our current competitors with respect to some or all of these factors.

Our business is subject to substantial seasonal variations in demand. Historically, a significant portion of our net revenues and net earnings have been realized during the period from October through January, and levels of net revenues and net earnings have typically been lower during the period from February through September. We believe this is the general pattern associated with the retail industry. In anticipation of our holiday selling season, we hire a substantial number of additional temporary employees in our retail stores, customer care centers and distribution centers, and incur significant fixed catalog production and mailing costs.

## **EMPLOYEES**

As of February 1, 2015, we had approximately 26,800 employees, of whom approximately 8,700 were full-time. During the fiscal 2014 holiday selling season (defined as the period from October through December), we hired approximately 8,800 temporary employees primarily in our retail stores, customer care centers and distribution centers.

## **TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS, PATENTS AND DOMAIN NAMES**

We own and/or have applied to register 75 separate trademarks and service marks. We own and/or have applied to register our key brand names as trademarks in the U.S. and 91 additional jurisdictions. Exclusive rights to the trademarks and service marks are held by Williams-Sonoma, Inc. and are used by our subsidiaries and franchisees under license. These marks include our core brand names as well as brand names for selected products and services. The core brand names in particular, including “Williams-Sonoma,” the Williams-Sonoma Grande Cuisine logo, “Pottery Barn,” “pottery barn kids,” “PBteen,” “west elm,” “Williams-Sonoma Home,” “Rejuvenation” and “Mark and Graham” are of material importance to us. Trademarks are generally valid as long as they are in use and/or their registrations are properly maintained, and they have not been found to have become generic. Trademark registrations can generally be renewed indefinitely so long as the marks are in use. We own numerous copyrights and trade dress rights for our products, product packaging, catalogs, books, house publications, website designs and store designs, among other things, which are also used by our subsidiaries and franchisees under license. We hold patents on certain product functions and product designs. Patents are generally valid for 14 to 20 years as long as their registrations are properly maintained. In addition, we have registered and maintain numerous Internet domain names, including “williams-sonoma.com,” “potterybarn.com,”

“potterybarnkids.com,” “pbteen.com,” “westelm.com,” “wshome.com,” “williams-sonomains.com,” “rejuvenation.com” and “markandgraham.com.” Collectively, the trademarks, copyrights, trade dress rights and domain names that we hold are of material importance to us.

## **AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

We file annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, proxy and information statements and amendments to reports filed or furnished pursuant to Sections 13(a), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The public may read and copy these materials at the SEC’s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549-0213. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding Williams-Sonoma, Inc. and other companies that file materials electronically with the SEC. Our annual reports, Forms 10-K, Forms 10-Q, Forms 8-K and proxy and information statements are also available, free of charge, on our website at [www.williams-sonomains.com](http://www.williams-sonomains.com).

## **ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

A description of the risks and uncertainties associated with our business is set forth below. You should carefully consider such risks and uncertainties, together with the other information contained in this report and in our other public filings. If any of such risks and uncertainties actually occurs, our business, financial condition or operating results could differ materially from the plans, projections and other forward-looking statements included in the section titled “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and elsewhere in this report and in our other public filings. In addition, if any of the following risks and uncertainties, or if any other risks and uncertainties, actually occurs, our business, financial condition or operating results could be harmed substantially, which could cause the market price of our stock to decline, perhaps significantly.

*Declines in general economic conditions, and the resulting impact on consumer confidence and consumer spending, could adversely impact our results of operations.*

Our financial performance is subject to declines in general economic conditions and the impact of such economic conditions on levels of consumer confidence and consumer spending. Consumer confidence and consumer spending may deteriorate significantly, and could remain depressed for an extended period of time. Consumer purchases of discretionary items, including our merchandise, generally decline during periods when disposable income is limited, unemployment rates increase or there is economic uncertainty. An uncertain economic environment could also cause our vendors to go out of business or our banks to discontinue lending to us or our vendors, or it could cause us to undergo restructurings, any of which would adversely impact our business and operating results.

*We are unable to control many of the factors affecting consumer spending, and declines in consumer spending on home furnishings and kitchen products in general could reduce demand for our products.*

Our business depends on consumer demand for our products and, consequently, is sensitive to a number of factors that influence consumer spending, including general economic conditions, consumer disposable income, fuel prices, recession and fears of recession, unemployment, war and fears of war, inclement weather, availability of consumer credit, consumer debt levels, conditions in the housing market, interest rates, sales tax rates and rate increases, inflation, consumer confidence in future economic conditions and political conditions, and consumer perceptions of personal well-being and security. In particular, past economic downturns have led to decreased discretionary spending, which adversely impacted our business. In addition, periods of decreased home purchases typically lead to decreased consumer spending on home products. These factors have affected, and may in the future affect, our various brands and channels differently. Adverse changes in factors affecting discretionary consumer spending have reduced and may in the future reduce consumer demand for our products, thus reducing our sales and harming our business and operating results.

*If we are unable to identify and analyze factors affecting our business, anticipate changing consumer preferences and buying trends, and manage our inventory commensurate with customer demand, our sales levels and operating results may decline.*

Our success depends, in large part, upon our ability to identify and analyze factors affecting our business and to anticipate and respond in a timely manner to changing merchandise trends and customer demands. For example, in the specialty home products business, style and color trends are constantly evolving. Consumer preferences cannot be predicted with certainty and may change between selling seasons. Changes in customer preferences and buying trends may also affect our brands differently. We must be able to stay current with preferences and trends in our brands and address the customer tastes for each of our target customer demographics. We must also be able to identify and adjust the customer offerings in our brands to cater to customer demands. For example, a change in customer preferences for children's room furnishings may not correlate to a similar change in buying trends for other home furnishings. If we misjudge either the market for our merchandise or our customers' purchasing habits, our sales may decline significantly or may be delayed while we work to fill backorders. We may be required to mark down certain products to sell any excess inventory or to sell such inventory through our outlet stores or other liquidation channels at prices which are significantly lower than our retail prices, any of which would negatively impact our business and operating results.

In addition, we must manage our inventory effectively and commensurate with customer demand. Much of our inventory is sourced from vendors located outside of the United States. Thus, we usually must order merchandise, and enter into contracts for the purchase and manufacture of such merchandise, up to twelve months in advance of the applicable selling season and frequently before trends are known. The extended lead times for many of our purchases may make it difficult for us to respond rapidly to new or changing trends. Our vendors also may not have the capacity to handle our demands or may go out of business in times of economic crisis. In addition, the seasonal nature of the specialty home products business requires us to carry a significant amount of inventory prior to peak selling season. As a result, we are vulnerable to demand and pricing shifts and to misjudgments in the selection and timing of merchandise purchases. If we do not accurately predict our customers' preferences and acceptance levels of our products, our inventory levels will not be appropriate, and our business and operating results may be negatively impacted.

*We may be exposed to cybersecurity risks and costs associated with credit card fraud and identity theft that could cause us to incur unexpected expenses and loss of revenue.*

A significant portion of our customer orders are placed through our e-commerce websites or through our customer care centers. In addition, a significant portion of sales made through our retail channel require the collection of certain customer data, such as credit card information. In order for our sales channels to function successfully, we and other parties involved in processing customer transactions must be able to transmit confidential information, including credit card information and other personal information on our customers, securely over public and private networks. Third parties may have or develop the technology or knowledge to breach, disable, disrupt or interfere with our systems or processes or those of our vendors. Although we take the security of our systems and the privacy of our customers' confidential information seriously, and we believe we take reasonable steps to protect the security and confidentiality of the information we collect, we cannot guarantee that our security measures will effectively prevent others from obtaining unauthorized access to our information and our customers' information. The techniques used to obtain unauthorized access to systems change frequently and are not often recognized until after they have been launched. Any person who circumvents our security measures could destroy or steal valuable information or disrupt our operations. Any security breach could cause consumers to lose confidence in the security of our information systems, including our e-commerce websites or stores, and choose not to purchase from us. Any security breach could also expose us to risks of data loss, litigation, regulatory investigations and other significant liabilities. Such a breach could also seriously disrupt, slow or hinder our operations and harm our reputation and customer relationships, any of which could harm our business.

In addition, states and the federal government are increasingly enacting laws and regulations to protect consumers against identity theft. As our business expands globally, we are subject to data privacy and other similar laws in various foreign jurisdictions. If we are the target of a cybersecurity attack resulting in

unauthorized disclosure of our customer data, we may be required to undertake costly notification procedures. Compliance with these laws will likely increase the costs of doing business. If we fail to implement appropriate safeguards or to detect and provide prompt notice of unauthorized access as required by some of these laws, we could be subject to potential claims for damages and other remedies, which could be significantly in excess of our insurance coverage and could harm our business.

*If we are unable to effectively manage our e-commerce business, our reputation and operating results may be harmed.*

Our e-commerce channel has been our fastest growing business over the last several years and is a significant part of our sales and profits. The success of our e-commerce business depends, in part, on third parties and factors over which we have limited control. We must continually respond to changing consumer preferences and buying trends relating to e-commerce usage. Our success in e-commerce has been strengthened in part by our ability to understand the buying trends of visitors to our websites and to personalize the experience they have with us. We also utilize interest-based advertising to target internet users whose behavior indicates they might be interested in our products. Current or future legislation may reduce or restrict our ability to use these certain techniques, which could reduce the effectiveness of our marketing efforts.

We are also vulnerable to certain additional risks and uncertainties associated with our e-commerce websites, including: changes in required technology interfaces; website downtime and other technical failures; internet connectivity issues; costs and technical issues as we upgrade our website software; computer viruses; changes in applicable federal and state regulations; security breaches; and consumer privacy concerns. In addition, we must keep up to date with competitive technology trends, including the use of new or improved technology, evolving creative user interfaces and other e-commerce marketing trends such as paid search, re-targeting, and the proliferation of mobile usage, among others, which may increase our costs and which may not succeed in increasing sales or attracting customers. Our failure to successfully respond to these risks and uncertainties might adversely affect the sales or margin in our e-commerce business, as well as damage our reputation and brands.

*Our dependence on foreign vendors and our increased global operations subject us to a variety of risks and uncertainties that could impact our operations and financial results.*

Approximately 64% of our merchandise purchases in fiscal 2014 were sourced from foreign vendors in 51 countries, predominantly in Asia and Europe. Our dependence on foreign vendors means that we may be affected by changes in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to other foreign currencies. For example, any upward valuation in the Chinese yuan, the euro, or any other foreign currency against the U.S. dollar may result in higher costs to us for those goods. Although approximately 98% of our foreign purchases of merchandise are negotiated and paid for in U.S. dollars, declines in foreign currencies and currency exchange rates might negatively affect the profitability and business prospects of one or more of our foreign vendors. This, in turn, might cause such foreign vendors to demand higher prices for merchandise in their effort to offset any lost profits associated with any currency devaluation, delay merchandise shipments to us, or discontinue selling to us, any of which could ultimately reduce our sales or increase our costs. In addition, the rising cost of labor in the countries in which our foreign vendors operate has resulted in increases in our costs of doing business. Any further increases in the cost of living in such countries may result in additional increases in our costs or in our foreign vendors going out of business.

We, and our foreign vendors, are also subject to other risks and uncertainties associated with changing economic and political conditions outside of the United States. These risks and uncertainties include import duties and quotas, compliance with anti-dumping regulations, work stoppages, economic uncertainties and adverse economic conditions (including inflation and recession), foreign government regulations, employment matters, wars and fears of war, political unrest, natural disasters, regulations to address climate change and other trade restrictions. We cannot predict whether any of the countries from which our raw materials or products are sourced, or in which our products are currently manufactured or may be manufactured in the future, will be subject to trade restrictions imposed by the U.S. or foreign governments or the likelihood, type or effect of any such restrictions. Any event causing a disruption or delay of imports from foreign vendors, including labor disputes resulting in work disruption

(such as the disruptions at the west coast ports in early 2015), the imposition of additional import restrictions, restrictions on the transfer of funds and/or increased tariffs or quotas, or both, could increase the cost, reduce the supply of merchandise available to us, or result in excess inventory if merchandise is received after the planned or appropriate selling season, all of which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results. Furthermore, some or all of our foreign vendors' operations may be adversely affected by political and financial instability resulting in the disruption of trade from exporting countries, restrictions on the transfer of funds and/or other trade disruptions. In addition, an economic downturn, or failure of foreign markets, may result in financial instabilities for our foreign vendors, which may cause our foreign vendors to decrease production, discontinue selling to us, or cease operations altogether. Our global operations in Asia, Australia and Europe could also be affected by changing economic and political conditions in foreign countries, either of which could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and operating results.

Although we continue to improve our global compliance program, there remains a risk that one or more of our foreign vendors will not adhere to our global compliance standards, such as fair labor standards and the prohibition on child labor. Non-governmental organizations might attempt to create an unfavorable impression of our sourcing practices or the practices of some of our foreign vendors that could harm our image. If either of these events occurs, we could lose customer goodwill and favorable brand recognition, which could negatively affect our business and operating results.

*We depend on foreign vendors and third party agents for timely and effective sourcing of our merchandise, and we may not be able to acquire products in sufficient quantities and at acceptable prices to meet our needs, which would impact our operations and financial results.*

Our performance depends, in part, on our ability to purchase our merchandise in sufficient quantities at competitive prices. We purchase our merchandise from numerous foreign and domestic manufacturers and importers. We have no contractual assurances of continued supply, pricing or access to new products, and any vendor could change the terms upon which it sells to us, discontinue selling to us, or go out of business at any time. We may not be able to acquire desired merchandise in sufficient quantities on terms acceptable to us. Better than expected sales demand may also lead to customer backorders and lower in-stock positions of our merchandise, which could negatively affect our business and operating results. In addition, our vendors may have difficulty adjusting to our changing demands and growing business.

Any inability to acquire suitable merchandise on acceptable terms or the loss of one or more of our foreign vendors or third party agents could have a negative effect on our business and operating results because we would be missing products that we felt were important to our assortment, unless and until alternative supply arrangements are secured. We may not be able to develop relationships with new third party agents or vendors, and products from alternative sources, if any, may be of a lesser quality and/or more expensive than those we currently purchase.

In addition, we are subject to certain risks that could limit our vendors' ability to provide us with quality merchandise on a timely basis and at prices that are commercially acceptable, including risks related to the availability of raw materials, labor disputes, work disruptions or stoppages, union organizing activities, vendor financial liquidity, inclement weather, natural disasters, general economic and political conditions and regulations to address climate change.

*If our vendors fail to adhere to our quality control standards, we may delay a product launch or recall a product, which could damage our reputation and negatively affect our operations and financial results.*

Our vendors might not adhere to our quality control standards, and we might not identify the deficiency before merchandise ships to our stores or customers. Our vendors' failure to manufacture or import quality merchandise in a timely and effective manner could damage our reputation and brands, and could lead to an increase in customer litigation against us and an increase in our routine insurance and litigation costs. Further, any merchandise that we receive, even if it meets our quality standards, could become subject to a recall, which could damage our reputation and brands, and harm our business. Additionally, changes to the legislative or regulatory framework regarding product safety or quality may subject companies like ours to more product recalls and result

in higher recall-related expenses. Any recalls or other safety issues could harm our brands' images and negatively affect our business and operating results.

*Our efforts to expand globally may not be successful and could negatively impact the value of our brands.*

We are currently growing our business and increasing our global presence by opening new stores outside of the United States, expanding our franchise operations, and offering shipping globally through third party vendors. In fiscal 2013 we opened our first company-owned retail stores and launched e-commerce sites outside of North America as part of our overall global expansion strategy. While our global expansion to date has been a small part of our business, we plan to continue to increase the number of stores we open both directly and through our franchise arrangements. We have limited experience with global sales, understanding consumer preferences and anticipating buying trends in different countries, and marketing to customers overseas. Moreover, global awareness of our brands and our products may not be high. Consequently, we may not be able to successfully compete with established brands in these markets and our global sales may not result in the revenues we anticipate. Also, our products may not be accepted, either due to foreign legal requirements or due to different consumer tastes and trends. If our global growth initiatives are not successful, or if we or any of our third party vendors fail to comply with any applicable regulations or laws, the value of our brands may be harmed and our future opportunities for global growth may be negatively affected. Further, the administration of our global expansion may divert management attention and require more resources than we expect. In addition, we are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risk with respect to our operations denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Our retail stores in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, and our operations throughout Asia and Europe expose us to market risk associated with foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. Although we use instruments to hedge certain foreign currency risks, such hedges may not succeed in offsetting all of the impact of foreign currency rate volatility and generally only delay such impact on our business and financial results. Further, because we do not hedge against all of our foreign currency exposure our business will continue to be susceptible to foreign currency fluctuations. Our ultimate realized loss or gain with respect to currency fluctuations will generally depend on the size and type of the transactions that we enter into, the currency exchange rates associated with these exposures, changes in those rates and whether we have entered into foreign currency hedge contracts to offset these exposures. All of these factors could materially impact our results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

We have two franchise agreements with unaffiliated franchisees to operate stores in the Middle East and the Philippines. Under these agreements, our franchisees operate stores that sell goods purchased from us under our brand names. In fiscal 2014, we entered into a franchise agreement with an additional unaffiliated franchisee to operate stores and e-commerce websites in Mexico, beginning in 2015. We continue to seek out and identify new select franchise partnerships for select countries. The effect of these franchise arrangements on our business and results of operations is uncertain and will depend upon various factors, including the demand for our products in new global markets. In addition, certain aspects of our franchise arrangements are not directly within our control, such as the ability of each franchisee to meet its projections regarding store openings and sales. Moreover, while the agreements we have entered into may provide us with certain termination rights, to the extent that our franchisees do not operate their stores in a manner consistent with our requirements regarding our brand identities and customer experience standards, the value of our brands could be impaired. In addition, in connection with these franchise arrangements, we have and will continue to implement certain new processes that may subject us to additional regulations and laws, such as U.S. export regulations. Failure to comply with any applicable regulations or laws could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

*We have limited experience operating on a global basis and our failure to effectively manage the risks and challenges inherent in a global business could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition and growth prospects.*

We operate several retail businesses, subsidiaries and branch offices throughout Asia, Australia and Europe, which includes managing overseas employees, and plan to continue expanding these overseas operations in the future. We have limited experience operating overseas subsidiaries and managing non-U.S. employees and, as a



result, may encounter cultural challenges with local practices and customs that may result in harm to our reputation and the value of our brands. Our global presence exposes us to the laws and regulations of these jurisdictions, including those related to marketing, privacy, data protection, employment, and product safety and testing. We may be unable to keep current with government requirements as they change from time to time. Our failure to comply with such laws and regulations may harm our reputation, adversely affect our future opportunities for growth and expansion in these countries, and harm our business and operating results.

Moreover, our global operations subject us to a variety of risks and challenges, including:

- increased management, infrastructure and legal compliance costs, including the cost of real estate and labor in those markets;
- increased financial accounting and reporting requirements and complexities;
- increased operational complexities, including managing our inventory globally;
- the diversion of management attention away from our core business;
- general economic conditions, changes in diplomatic and trade relationships and political and social instability in each country or region;
- economic uncertainty around the world;
- compliance with foreign laws and regulations and the risks and costs of non-compliance with such laws and regulations;
- compliance with U.S. laws and regulations for foreign operations;
- dependence on certain third parties, including vendors and other service providers, with whom we do not have extensive experience;
- fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and the related effect on our financial results, and the use of foreign exchange hedging programs to mitigate such risks;
- growing cash balances in foreign jurisdictions which may be subject to repatriation restrictions;
- reduced or varied protection for intellectual property rights in some countries and practical difficulties of enforcing such rights abroad; and
- compliance with the laws of foreign taxing jurisdictions and the overlapping of different tax regimes.

Any of these risks could adversely affect our global operations, reduce our revenues or increase our operating costs, which in turn could adversely affect our business, operating results, financial condition and growth prospects. Some of our vendors and our franchisees also have global operations and are subject to the risks described above. Even if we are able to successfully manage the risks of our global operations, our business may be adversely affected if our vendors and franchisees are not able to successfully manage these risks.

In addition, as we continue to expand our global operations, we are subject to certain U.S. laws, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, in addition to the laws of the foreign countries in which we operate. We must ensure that our employees and third party agents comply with these laws. If any of our overseas operations, or our employees or third party agents, violates such laws, we could become subject to sanctions or other penalties that could negatively affect our reputation, business and operating results.

*A number of factors that affect our ability to successfully open new stores or close existing stores are beyond our control, and these factors may harm our ability to expand or contract our retail operations and harm our ability to increase our sales and profits.*

Approximately 50% of our net revenues are generated by our retail stores. Our ability to open additional stores or close existing stores successfully will depend upon a number of factors, including:

- general economic conditions;
- our identification of, and the availability of, suitable store locations;
- our success in negotiating new leases and amending or terminating existing leases on acceptable terms;
- the success of other retail stores in and around our retail locations;
- our ability to secure required governmental permits and approvals;
- our hiring and training of skilled store operating personnel, especially management;
- the availability of financing on acceptable terms, if at all; and
- the financial stability of our landlords and potential landlords.

Many of these factors are beyond our control. For example, for the purpose of identifying suitable store locations, we rely, in part, on demographic surveys regarding the location of consumers in our target market segments. While we believe that the surveys and other relevant information are helpful indicators of suitable store locations, we recognize that these information sources cannot predict future consumer preferences and buying trends with complete accuracy. In addition, changes in demographics, in the types of merchandise that we sell and in the pricing of our products, may reduce the number of suitable store locations. Further, time frames for lease negotiations and store development vary from location to location and can be subject to unforeseen delays or unexpected cancellations. We may not be able to open new stores or, if opened, operate those stores profitably. Construction and other delays in store openings could have a negative impact on our business and operating results. Additionally, we may not be able to renegotiate the terms of our current leases or close our underperforming stores, either of which could negatively impact our operating results.

*Our sales may be negatively impacted by increasing competition from companies with brands or products similar to ours.*

The specialty e-commerce and retail businesses are highly competitive. We compete with other retailers that market lines of merchandise similar to ours. We compete with national, regional and local businesses that utilize a similar retail store strategy, as well as traditional furniture stores, department stores and specialty stores. The substantial sales growth in the e-commerce industry within the last decade has encouraged the entry of many new competitors, new business models, and an increase in competition from established companies. In addition, the decline in the global economic environment has led to increased competition from discount retailers selling similar products at reduced prices. The competitive challenges facing us include:

- anticipating and quickly responding to changing consumer demands or preferences better than our competitors;
- maintaining favorable brand recognition and achieving customer perception of value;
- effectively marketing and competitively pricing our products to consumers in several diverse market segments;
- effectively managing and controlling our costs;
- effectively managing increasingly competitive promotional activity;
- developing new innovative shopping experiences, like mobile and tablet applications that effectively engage today's digital customers;
- developing innovative, high-quality products in colors and styles that appeal to consumers of varying age groups, tastes and regions, and in ways that favorably distinguish us from our competitors; and
- effectively managing our supply chain and distribution strategies in order to provide our products to our consumers on a timely basis and minimize returns, replacements and damaged products.

In light of the many competitive challenges facing us, we may not be able to compete successfully. Increased competition could reduce our sales and harm our operating results and business.

*Our business and operating results may be harmed if we are unable to timely and effectively deliver merchandise to our stores and customers.*

We continue to insource furniture delivery hubs in certain geographies and continue with the regionalization of our retail fulfillment capabilities. If we are unable to effectively manage our inventory levels and responsiveness of our supply chain, including predicting the appropriate levels and type of inventory to stock within each of our distribution centers, our business and operating results may be harmed. Further, we cannot control all of the various factors that might affect our e-commerce fulfillment rates and timely and effective merchandise delivery to our stores. We rely upon third party carriers for our merchandise shipments and reliable data regarding the timing of those shipments, including shipments to our customers and to and from our stores. In addition, we are heavily dependent upon two carriers for the delivery of our merchandise to our customers. Accordingly, we are subject to risks, including labor disputes (such as the disruptions at the west coast ports in early 2015), union organizing activity, inclement weather, natural disasters, the closure of such carriers' offices or a reduction in operational hours due to an economic slowdown, possible acts of terrorism affecting such carriers' ability to

provide delivery services to meet our shipping needs, disruptions or increased fuel costs, and costs associated with any regulations to address climate change. Failure to deliver merchandise in a timely and effective manner could damage our reputation and brands. In addition, fuel costs have been volatile and airline and other transportation companies continue to struggle to operate profitably, which could lead to increased fulfillment expenses. Any rise in fulfillment expenses could negatively affect our business and operating results.

*Our failure to successfully manage our order-taking and fulfillment operations could have a negative impact on our business and operating results.*

Our e-commerce business depends, in part, on our ability to maintain efficient and uninterrupted order-taking and fulfillment operations in our customer care centers and on our e-commerce websites. Disruptions or slowdowns in these areas could result from disruptions in telephone or network services, power outages, inadequate system capacity, system hardware or software issues, computer viruses, security breaches, human error, changes in programming, union organizing activity, disruptions in our third party labor contracts, natural disasters or adverse weather conditions. Industries that are particularly seasonal, such as the home furnishings business, face a higher risk of harm from operational disruptions during peak sales seasons. These problems could result in a reduction in sales as well as increased selling, general and administrative expenses.

In addition, we face the risk that we cannot hire enough qualified employees to support our e-commerce operations, or that there will be a disruption in the workforce we hire from our third party providers, especially during our peak season. The need to operate with fewer employees could negatively impact our customer service levels and our operations.

*Our facilities and systems, as well as those of our vendors, are vulnerable to natural disasters and other unexpected events, any of which could result in an interruption in our business and harm our operating results.*

Our retail stores, corporate offices, distribution centers, infrastructure and e-commerce operations, as well as the operations of our vendors from which we receive goods and services, are vulnerable to damage from earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, floods or other volatile weather, power losses, telecommunications failures, hardware and software failures, computer viruses and similar events. If any of these events result in damage to our facilities or systems, or those of our vendors, we may experience interruptions in our business until the damage is repaired, resulting in the potential loss of customers and revenues. In addition, we may incur costs in repairing any damage beyond our applicable insurance coverage.

*Our failure to successfully manage the costs and performance of our catalog mailings might have a negative impact on our business.*

Catalog mailings are an important component of our business. Postal rate increases, such as the recent increases that went into effect in the U.S. in 2013 and 2014, affect the cost of our catalog mailings. We rely on discounts from the basic postal rate structure, which could be changed or discontinued at any time. Further, the U.S. Postal Service may raise rates in the future, which could negatively impact our business. The cost of paper, printing and catalog distribution also impacts our catalog business. We recently consolidated all of our catalog printing work with one printer. Our dependence on one vendor subjects us to various risks if the vendor fails to perform under our agreement. Paper costs have also fluctuated significantly in the past and may continue to fluctuate in the future. Also, consolidation within the paper industry has reduced the number of potential suppliers capable of meeting our paper requirements, and further consolidation could limit our ability in the future to obtain favorable terms including price, custom paper quality, paper quantity, and service. Future increases in postal rates, paper costs or printing costs could have a negative impact on our operating results to the extent that we are unable to offset such increases by raising prices, implementing more efficient printing, mailing, delivery and order fulfillment systems, or through the use of alternative direct-mail formats. In addition, if the performance of our catalogs declines, if we misjudge the correlation between our catalog circulation and net sales, or if our catalog strategy overall does not continue to be successful, our results of operations could be negatively impacted.

We have historically experienced fluctuations in our customers' response to our catalogs. Customer response to our catalogs is substantially dependent on merchandise assortment, merchandise availability and creative presentation, as well as the selection of customers to whom the catalogs are mailed, changes in mailing strategies, the size of our mailings, timing of delivery of our mailings, as well as the general retail sales environment and current domestic and global economic conditions. In addition, environmental organizations and other consumer advocacy groups may attempt to create an unfavorable impression of our paper use in catalogs and our distribution of catalogs generally, which may have a negative effect on our sales and our reputation. In addition, we depend upon external vendors to print and mail our catalogs. The failure to effectively produce or distribute our catalogs could affect the timing of catalog delivery. The timing of catalog delivery has been and can be affected by postal service delays and may be impacted in the future by changes in the services provided by the post office. Any delays in the timing of catalog delivery could cause customers to forego or defer purchases, negatively impacting our business and operating results.

*Declines in our comparable brand revenues may harm our operating results and cause a decline in the market price of our common stock.*

Various factors affect comparable brand revenues, including the number, size and location of stores we open, close, remodel or expand in any period, the overall economic and general retail sales environment, consumer preferences and buying trends, changes in sales mix among distribution channels, our ability to efficiently source and distribute products, changes in our merchandise mix, competition (including competitive promotional activity and discount retailers), current local and global economic conditions, the timing of our releases of new merchandise and promotional events, the success of marketing programs, the cannibalization of existing store sales by our new stores, changes in catalog circulation and in our e-commerce business and fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. Among other things, weather conditions have affected, and may continue to affect, comparable brand revenues by limiting our ability to deliver our products to our stores, altering consumer behavior, or requiring us to close certain stores temporarily and thus reducing store traffic. Even if stores are not closed, many customers may decide to avoid going to stores in bad weather. These factors have caused and may continue to cause our comparable brand revenue results to differ materially from prior periods and from earnings guidance we have provided. For example, the overall economic and general retail sales environment, as well as local and global economic conditions, has caused a significant decline in our comparable brand revenue results in the past.

Our comparable brand revenues have fluctuated significantly in the past on an annual, quarterly and monthly basis, and we expect that comparable brand revenues will continue to fluctuate in the future. In addition, past comparable brand revenues are not necessarily an indication of future results and comparable brand revenues may decrease in the future. Our ability to improve our comparable brand revenue results depends, in large part, on maintaining and improving our forecasting of customer demand and buying trends, selecting effective marketing techniques, effectively driving traffic to our stores, e-commerce websites and direct-mail catalogs through marketing and various promotional events, providing an appropriate mix of merchandise for our broad and diverse customer base and using effective pricing strategies. Any failure to meet the comparable brand revenue expectations of investors and securities analysts in one or more future periods could significantly reduce the market price of our common stock.

*Our failure to successfully anticipate merchandise returns might have a negative impact on our business.*

We record a reserve for merchandise returns based on historical return trends together with current product sales performance in each reporting period. If actual returns are greater than those projected and reserved for by management, additional sales returns might be recorded in the future. In addition, to the extent that returned merchandise is damaged, we often do not receive full retail value from the resale or liquidation of the merchandise. Further, the introduction of new merchandise, changes in merchandise mix, changes in consumer confidence, or other competitive and general economic conditions may cause actual returns to differ from merchandise return reserves. Any significant increase in merchandise returns that exceeds our reserves could harm our business and operating results.

*If we are unable to successfully manage the complexities associated with a multi-channel and multi-brand business, we may suffer declines in our existing business and our ability to attract new business.*

With the expansion of our e-commerce business, the development of new brands, acquired brands, and brand extensions, our overall business has become substantially more complex. The changes in our business have forced us to develop new expertise and face new challenges, risks and uncertainties. For example, we face the risk that our e-commerce business, including our catalog circulation, might cannibalize a significant portion of our retail sales. While we recognize that our e-commerce sales cannot be entirely incremental to sales through our retail channel, we seek to attract as many new customers as possible to our e-commerce websites. We continually analyze the business results of our channels and the relationships among the channels in an effort to find opportunities to build incremental sales.

*If we are unable to introduce new brands and brand extensions successfully, or to reposition or close existing brands, our business and operating results may be negatively impacted.*

We have in the past and may in the future introduce new brands and brand extensions, reposition brands, close existing brands, or acquire new brands, especially as we continue to expand globally. Our newest brands and brand extensions — Williams-Sonoma Home, PBteen and Mark and Graham, and any other new brands, as well as our acquired brand, Rejuvenation, or our expansion into new lines of business, including commercial furniture, may not grow as we project and plan for. The work involved with integrating new brands into our existing systems and operations could be time consuming, require significant amounts of management time and result in the diversion of substantial operational resources. Further, if we devote time and resources to new brands, acquired brands, brand extensions, brand repositioning, or new lines of business and those businesses are not as successful as we planned, then we risk damaging our overall business results or incurring impairment charges to write off any existing goodwill associated with previously acquired brands. Alternatively, if our new brands, acquired brands, brand extensions, repositioned brands or new lines of business prove to be very successful, we risk hurting our other existing brands through the potential migration of existing brand customers to the new businesses. In addition, we may not be able to introduce new brands and brand extensions, integrate newly acquired brands, reposition existing brands, develop new lines of business or expand our brands globally, in a manner that improves our overall business and operating results and may therefore be forced to close the brands or new lines of business, which may damage our reputation and negatively impact our operating results.

*Fluctuations in our tax obligations and effective tax rate may result in volatility of our operating results.*

We are subject to income taxes in many U.S. and certain foreign jurisdictions. Our provision for income taxes is subject to volatility and could be adversely impacted by a number of factors that require significant judgment and estimation. Although we believe our estimates are reasonable, actual results may materially differ from our estimates and adversely affect our financial condition or operating results. We record tax expense based on our estimates of future payments, which include reserves for estimates of probable settlements of foreign and domestic tax examinations. At any one time, many tax years are subject to audit by various taxing jurisdictions. The results of these audits and negotiations with taxing authorities may affect the ultimate settlement of these issues. As a result, we expect that throughout the year there could be ongoing variability in our quarterly tax rates as taxable events occur and exposures are evaluated.

In addition, our effective tax rate in a given financial statement period may be materially impacted by changes in the mix and level of earnings or losses in countries with differing statutory tax rates or by changes to existing laws or regulations.

*Our inability to obtain commercial insurance at acceptable rates or our failure to adequately reserve for self-insured exposures might increase our expenses and have a negative impact on our business.*

We believe that commercial insurance coverage is prudent in certain areas of our business for risk management. Insurance costs may increase substantially in the future and may be affected by natural catastrophes, fear of terrorism, financial irregularities, cybersecurity breaches and other fraud at publicly-traded companies,

intervention by the government and a decrease in the number of insurance carriers. In addition, the carriers with which we hold our policies may go out of business or be otherwise unable to fulfill their contractual obligations, or may disagree with our interpretation of the coverage or the amounts owed. In addition, for certain types or levels of risk, such as risks associated with natural disasters or terrorist attacks, we may determine that we cannot obtain commercial insurance at acceptable rates, if at all. Therefore, we may choose to forego or limit our purchase of relevant commercial insurance, choosing instead to self-insure one or more types or levels of risks. We are primarily self-insured for workers' compensation, employment practices liability, employee health benefits, and product and general liability claims, among others. If we suffer a substantial loss that is not covered by commercial insurance or our self-insurance reserves, the loss and related expenses could harm our business and operating results. In addition, exposures exist for which no insurance may be available and for which we have not reserved.

*Our inability or failure to protect our intellectual property would have a negative impact on our brands, reputation and operating results.*

We may not be able to adequately protect our intellectual property in the U.S. or in foreign jurisdictions, particularly as we continue to expand globally. Our trademarks, service marks, copyrights, trade dress rights, trade secrets, domain names and other intellectual property are valuable assets that are critical to our success. The unauthorized reproduction, theft or other misappropriation of our intellectual property could diminish the value of our brands or reputation and cause a decline in our sales. Protection of our intellectual property and maintenance of distinct branding are particularly important as they distinguish our products and services from our competitors. In addition, the costs of defending our intellectual property may adversely affect our operating results.

*We may be subject to legal proceedings that could be time consuming, result in costly litigation, require significant amounts of management time and result in the diversion of significant operational resources.*

We are involved in lawsuits, claims and proceedings incident to the ordinary course of our business. Litigation is inherently unpredictable. Any claims against us, whether meritorious or not, could be time consuming, result in costly litigation, require significant amounts of management time and result in the diversion of significant operational resources. There has been a rise in the number of lawsuits against companies like us that gather information in order to market to consumers online or through the mail and, along with other retailers, we have been named in lawsuits for gathering zip code information from our customers. We believe that we have meritorious defenses against these actions, and we will continue to vigorously defend against them. There have also been a growing number of e-commerce-related patent infringement lawsuits and employment-related lawsuits in recent years. From time to time, we have been subject to these types of lawsuits. The cost of defending against all these types of claims against us or the ultimate resolution of such claims, whether by settlement or adverse court decision, may harm our business and operating results. In addition, the increasingly regulated business environment may result in a greater number of enforcement actions and private litigation. This could subject us to increased exposure to stockholder lawsuits.

*Our operating results may be harmed by unsuccessful management of our employment, occupancy and other operating costs, and the operation and growth of our business may be harmed if we are unable to attract qualified personnel.*

To be successful, we need to manage our operating costs and continue to look for opportunities to reduce costs. We recognize that we may need to increase the number of our employees, especially during holiday selling seasons, and incur other expenses to support new brands and brand extensions and the growth of our existing brands, including the opening of new stores. Alternatively, if we are unable to make substantial adjustments to our cost structure during times of uncertainty, such as an economic downturn, we may incur unnecessary expenses or we may have inadequate resources to properly run our business, and our business and operating results may be negatively impacted. From time to time, we may also experience union organizing activity in currently non-union facilities, including in our stores. Union organizing activity may result in work slowdowns

or stoppages and higher labor costs. In addition, there appears to be a growing number of wage-and-hour lawsuits and other employment-related lawsuits against retail companies, especially in California. State, federal and global laws and regulations regarding employment change frequently and the ultimate cost of compliance cannot be precisely estimated. Further, there have been and may continue to be increases in minimum wage and health care requirements. Any changes in regulations, the imposition of additional regulations, or the enactment of any new or more stringent legislation that impacts employment and labor, trade, or health care, could have an adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

We contract with various agencies to provide us with qualified personnel for our workforce. Any negative publicity regarding these agencies, such as in connection with immigration issues or employment practices, could damage our reputation, disrupt our ability to obtain needed labor or result in financial harm to our business, including the potential loss of business-related financial incentives in the jurisdictions where we operate. Although we strive to secure long-term contracts on favorable terms with our service providers and other vendors, we may not be able to avoid unexpected operating cost increases in the future, such as those associated with minimum wage increases or enhanced health care requirements. Further, we incur substantial costs to warehouse and distribute our inventory. In fiscal 2014, we continued to insource furniture delivery hubs in certain geographies and continued with the regionalization of our retail fulfillment capabilities. Significant increases in our inventory levels may result in increased warehousing and distribution costs, such as costs related to additional distribution centers, which we may not be able to lease on acceptable terms, if at all. Such increases in inventory levels may also lead to increases in costs associated with inventory that is lost, damaged or aged. Higher than expected costs, particularly if coupled with lower than expected sales, would negatively impact our business and operating results. In addition, in times of economic uncertainty, these long-term contracts may make it difficult to quickly reduce our fixed operating costs, which could negatively impact our business and operating results.

*We are undertaking certain systems changes that might disrupt our business operations.*

Our success depends, in part, on our ability to source, sell and distribute merchandise efficiently through appropriate systems and procedures. We are in the process of substantially modifying our information technology systems, which involves updating or replacing legacy systems with successor systems over the course of several years. There are inherent risks associated with replacing our core systems, including supply chain and merchandising systems disruptions, that could affect our ability to get the correct products into the appropriate stores and delivered to customers. We may not successfully launch these new systems, or the launch of such systems may result in disruptions to our business operations. In addition, changes to any of our software implementation strategies could result in the impairment of software-related assets. We are also subject to the risks associated with the ability of our vendors to provide information technology solutions to meet our needs. Any disruptions could negatively impact our business and operating results.

*We outsource certain aspects of our business to third party vendors and are in the process of insourcing certain business functions from third party vendors, both of which subject us to risks, including disruptions in our business and increased costs.*

We outsource certain aspects of our business to third party vendors that subject us to risks of disruptions in our business as well as increased costs. For example, we utilize outside vendors for such things as payroll processing, email marketing and various distribution center services. Accordingly, we are subject to the risks associated with their ability to successfully provide the necessary services to meet our needs. If our vendors are unable to adequately protect our data and information is lost, our ability to deliver our services is interrupted, or our vendors' fees are higher than expected, then our business and operating results may be negatively impacted.

In addition, we are in the process of insourcing certain aspects of our business, including the management of certain furniture manufacturing and delivery, and the management of our global vendors, each of which were previously outsourced to third party providers. We may also need to continue to insource other aspects of our business in the future in order to control our costs and to stay competitive. This may cause disruptions in our business and result in increased cost to us. In addition, if we are unable to perform these functions better than, or at least as well as, our third party providers, our business may be harmed.

*If our operating and financial performance in any given period does not meet the guidance that we have provided to the public or the expectations of our investors and analysts, our stock price may decline.*

We provide public guidance on our expected operating and financial results for future periods. Although we believe that this guidance provides investors and analysts with a better understanding of management's expectations for the future and is useful to our stockholders and potential stockholders, such guidance is comprised of forward-looking statements subject to the risks and uncertainties described in this report and in our other public filings and public statements. Our actual results may not always be in line with or exceed the guidance we have provided or the expectations of our investors and analysts, especially in times of economic uncertainty. In the past, when we have reduced our previously provided guidance, the market price of our common stock has declined. If, in the future, our operating or financial results for a particular period do not meet our guidance or the expectations of our investors and analysts or if we reduce our guidance for future periods, the market price of our common stock may decline.

*A variety of factors, including seasonality and the economic environment, may cause our quarterly operating results to fluctuate, leading to volatility in our stock price.*

Our quarterly results have fluctuated in the past and may fluctuate in the future, depending upon a variety of factors, including changes in economic conditions, shifts in the timing of holiday selling seasons, including Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as timing shifts due to 53-week fiscal years, which occur approximately every five years. Historically, a significant portion of our net revenues and net earnings have typically been realized during the period from October through January each year, our peak selling season. In anticipation of increased holiday sales activity, we incur certain significant incremental expenses prior to and during peak selling seasons, including fixed catalog production and mailing costs and the costs associated with hiring a substantial number of temporary employees to supplement our existing workforce.

*We may require funding from external sources, which may cost more than we expect, or not be available at the levels we require and, as a consequence, our expenses and operating results could be negatively affected.*

We regularly review and evaluate our liquidity and capital needs. Although we have a growing balance of cash that is held offshore, we currently believe that our available cash, cash equivalents and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to finance our operations and expected capital requirements for at least the next 12 months. However, we might experience periods during which we encounter additional cash needs and we might need additional external funding to support our operations. Although we were able to amend and increase our line of credit facility during fiscal 2014 on acceptable terms, in the event we require additional liquidity from our lenders, such funds may not be available to us or may not be available to us on acceptable terms. For example, in the event we were to breach any of our financial covenants, our banks would not be required to provide us with additional funding, or they may require us to renegotiate our existing credit facility on less favorable terms. In addition, we may not be able to renew our letters of credit that we use to help pay our suppliers on terms that are acceptable to us, or at all, as the availability of letter of credit facilities may become limited. Further, the providers of such credit may reallocate the available credit to other borrowers. If we are unable to access credit at the levels we require, or the cost of credit is greater than expected, it could adversely affect our operating results.

*Disruptions in the financial markets may adversely affect our liquidity and capital resources and our business.*

Global financial markets can experience extreme volatility, disruption and credit contraction, which adversely affect global economic conditions. Turmoil in the financial and credit markets or other changes in economic conditions could adversely affect sources of liquidity available to us or our costs of capital. We have access to capital through our revolving line of credit facility. Each financial institution, which is part of the syndicate for our revolving line of credit facility, is responsible for providing a portion of the loans to be made under the facility. If any lender, or group of lenders, with a significant portion of the commitments in our revolving line of credit facility fails to satisfy its obligations to extend credit under the facility and we are unable to find a replacement for such lender or group of lenders on a timely basis, if at all, our liquidity and our business may be materially adversely affected.



*If we are unable to pay quarterly dividends or repurchase our stock at intended levels, our reputation and stock price may be harmed.*

We currently have a \$750,000,000 stock repurchase program, of which we have \$287,000,000 remaining. In addition, in March 2015, we announced that our Board of Directors had authorized an increase in our quarterly cash dividend from \$0.33 to \$0.35 per common share for an annual cash dividend of \$1.40 per share. The stock repurchase program and dividend may require the use of a significant portion of our cash earnings. As a result, we may not retain a sufficient amount of cash to fund our operations or finance future growth opportunities, new product development initiatives and unanticipated capital expenditures, which could adversely affect our financial performance. Further, our Board of Directors may, at its discretion, decrease the intended level of dividends or entirely discontinue the payment of dividends at any time. The stock repurchase program does not have an expiration date and may be limited at any time. Our ability to pay dividends and repurchase stock will depend on our ability to generate sufficient cash flows from operations in the future. This ability may be subject to certain economic, financial, competitive and other factors that are beyond our control. Any failure to pay dividends or repurchase stock after we have announced our intention to do so may negatively impact our reputation and investor confidence in us, and may negatively impact our stock price.

*If we fail to maintain proper and effective internal controls, our ability to produce accurate and timely financial statements could be impaired and our investors' views of us could be harmed.*

We have evaluated and tested our internal controls in order to allow management to report on, and our registered independent public accounting firm to attest to, the effectiveness of our internal controls, as required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. If we are not able to continue to meet the requirements of Section 404 in a timely manner, or with adequate compliance, we would be required to disclose material weaknesses if they develop or are uncovered and we may be subject to sanctions or investigation by regulatory authorities, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission or the New York Stock Exchange. In addition, our internal controls may not prevent or detect all errors and fraud on a timely basis, if at all. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, is based upon certain assumptions and can provide only reasonable assurance that the objectives of the control system will be met. If any of the above were to occur, our business and the perception of us in the financial markets could be negatively impacted.

*Changes to accounting rules or regulations may adversely affect our operating results.*

Changes to existing accounting rules or regulations may impact our future operating results. A change in accounting rules or regulations may even affect our reporting of transactions completed before the change is effective. The introduction of new accounting rules or regulations and varying interpretations of existing accounting rules or regulations have occurred and may occur in the future. Future changes to accounting rules or regulations, or the questioning of current accounting practices, may adversely affect our operating results.

*Changes to estimates related to our cash flow projections may cause us to incur impairment charges related to our retail store locations and other property and equipment, including information technology systems, as well as goodwill.*

We make estimates and projections in connection with impairment analyses for our retail store locations and other property and equipment, including information technology systems, as well as goodwill. These analyses require us to make a number of estimates and projections of future results. If these estimates or projections change or prove incorrect, we may be, and have been, required to record impairment charges on certain store locations and other property and equipment, including information technology systems. These impairment charges have been significant in the past and may be significant in the future and, as a result of these charges, our operating results have been and may, in the future, be adversely affected.

*If we fail to attract and retain key personnel, our business and operating results may be harmed.*

Our future success depends to a significant degree on the skills, experience and efforts of key personnel in our senior management, whose vision for our company, knowledge of our business and expertise would be difficult

to replace. If any one of our key employees leaves, is seriously injured or unable to work, or fails to perform and we are unable to find a qualified replacement, we may be unable to execute our business strategy. We may not be successful in recruiting, retaining and motivating skilled personnel domestically or globally who have the requisite experience to achieve our global business goals.

In addition, our main offices are located in the San Francisco Bay Area, where competition for personnel with retail and technology skills can be intense. If we fail to identify, attract, retain and motivate these skilled personnel, our business may be harmed. Further, in the event we need to hire additional personnel, we may experience difficulties in attracting and successfully hiring such individuals due to competition for highly skilled personnel, as well as the significantly higher cost of living expenses in our market.

#### **ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

#### **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

We lease store locations, distribution centers, corporate facilities and customer care centers for our U.S. and foreign operations for original terms ranging generally from 3 to 22 years. Certain leases contain renewal options for periods of up to 20 years.

For our store locations, our gross leased store space, as of February 1, 2015, totaled approximately 5,965,000 square feet for 601 stores compared to approximately 5,838,000 square feet for 585 stores as of February 2, 2014.

##### *Leased Properties*

The following table summarizes the location and size of our leased distribution centers, corporate facilities and customer care centers occupied as of February 1, 2015:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupied Square Footage (Approximate)</u>
<i>Distribution Centers</i>	
Olive Branch, Mississippi	2,105,000
South Brunswick, New Jersey	2,103,000
City of Industry, California	1,180,000
Arlington, Texas	822,000
Memphis, Tennessee <sup>1</sup>	571,000
Claremont, North Carolina	412,000
Other	453,000
<i>Corporate Facilities</i>	
Brisbane, California	194,000
Brooklyn, New York	132,000
Portland, Oregon	132,000
San Francisco, California	29,000
<i>Customer Care Centers</i>	
Las Vegas, Nevada	36,000
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	36,000
Other	24,000

<sup>1</sup> See Note F to our Consolidated Financial Statements for more information.

In addition to the above contracts, we enter into other agreements for offsite storage needs for our distribution centers and our retail store locations. As of February 1, 2015, the total leased space relating to these properties was not material to us and is not included in the occupied square footage reported above.

### *Owned Properties*

The following table summarizes the location and size of our owned facilities occupied as of February 1, 2015:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupied Square Footage (Approximate)</u>
San Francisco, California	412,000
Rocklin, California	42,000
Other	17,000

We believe that all of our facilities are adequate for our current needs and that suitable additional or substitute space will be available in the future to replace our existing facilities, or to accommodate the expansion of our operations, if necessary.

### **ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

We are involved in lawsuits, claims and proceedings incident to the ordinary course of our business. These disputes, which are not currently material, are increasing in number as our business expands and our company grows larger. We review the need for any loss contingency reserves and establish reserves when, in the opinion of management, it is probable that a matter would result in liability, and the amount of loss, if any, can be reasonably estimated. In view of the inherent difficulty of predicting the outcome of these matters, it may not be possible to determine whether any loss is probable or to reasonably estimate the amount of the loss until the case is close to resolution, in which case no reserve is established until that time. Any claims against us, whether meritorious or not, could be time consuming, result in costly litigation, require significant amounts of management time and result in the diversion of significant operational resources. The results of these lawsuits, claims and proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty. However, we believe that the ultimate resolution of these current matters will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

### **ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

Not applicable.

## PART II

### ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

#### MARKET INFORMATION

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol WSM. The following table sets forth the high and low selling prices of our common stock on the NYSE for the periods indicated:

Fiscal 2014	High	Low
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	\$80.99	\$64.17
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	\$75.69	\$62.35
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	\$73.45	\$60.47
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$68.05	\$52.46
Fiscal 2013	High	Low
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	\$60.07	\$51.91
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	\$61.56	\$51.70
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	\$60.72	\$51.98
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$54.57	\$43.63

The closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on March 30, 2015 was \$79.11.

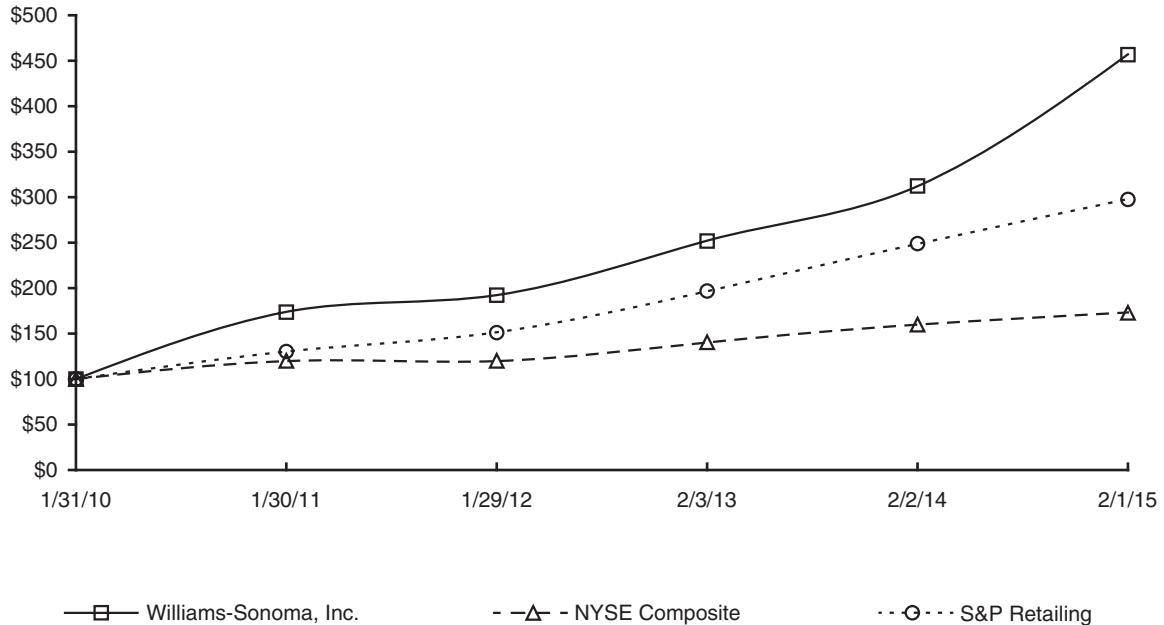
#### STOCKHOLDERS

The number of stockholders of record of our common stock as of March 30, 2015 was 360. This number excludes stockholders whose stock is held in nominee or street name by brokers.

## PERFORMANCE GRAPH

This graph compares the cumulative total stockholder return for our common stock with those of the NYSE Composite Index and the S&P Retailing Index, our peer group index. The cumulative total return listed below assumed an initial investment of \$100 and reinvestment of dividends. The graph shows historical stock price performance, including reinvestment of dividends, and is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

### COMPARISON OF FIVE YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN\* Among Williams-Sonoma, Inc., the NYSE Composite Index, and the S&P Retailing Index



	1/31/10	1/30/11	1/29/12	2/3/13	2/2/14	2/1/15
Williams-Sonoma, Inc.	100.00	173.67	192.26	251.95	312.16	456.75
NYSE Composite Index	100.00	119.83	119.92	140.23	159.80	173.01
S&P Retailing Index	100.00	130.27	151.31	196.75	248.60	297.50

#### \* Notes:

- The lines represent monthly index levels derived from compounded daily returns that include all dividends.
- The indices are re-weighted daily, using the market capitalization on the previous trading day.
- If the monthly interval, based on the fiscal year-end, is not a trading day, the preceding trading day is used.

## DIVIDENDS

In fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, total cash dividends declared were approximately \$125,378,000, or \$1.32 per common share, \$121,688,000, or \$1.24 per common share, and \$88,452,000, or \$0.88 per common share, respectively. In March 2015, we announced that our Board of Directors had authorized a 6% increase in our quarterly cash dividend, from \$0.33 to \$0.35 per common share, subject to capital availability. Our quarterly cash dividend may be limited or terminated at any time.

## STOCK REPURCHASE PROGRAMS

During fiscal 2014, we repurchased 3,331,557 shares of our common stock at an average cost of \$67.35 per share and a total cost of \$224,377,000. During fiscal 2013, we repurchased 4,344,962 shares of our common stock at an average cost of \$55.07 per share and a total cost of \$239,274,000. During fiscal 2012, we repurchased 3,962,034 shares of our common stock at an average cost of \$39.14 per share and a total cost of \$155,080,000.

The following table summarizes our repurchases of shares of our common stock during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2014 under our current \$750,000,000 stock repurchase program:

Fiscal period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of a Publicly Announced Program	Maximum Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program
November 3, 2014 – November 30, 2014	181,129	\$ 71.79	181,129	\$ 302,984,000
December 1, 2014 – December 28, 2014	106,168	\$ 73.38	106,168	\$ 295,193,000
December 29, 2014 – February 1, 2015	108,507	\$ 76.94	108,507	\$ 286,845,000
Total	395,804	\$ 73.63	395,804	\$ 286,845,000

Stock repurchases under this program may be made through open market and privately negotiated transactions at times and in such amounts as management deems appropriate. The timing and actual number of shares repurchased will depend on a variety of factors including price, corporate and regulatory requirements, capital availability and other market conditions. This stock repurchase program does not have an expiration date and may be limited or terminated at any time without prior notice.

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

### Five-Year Selected Financial Data

<i>In thousands, except percentages, per share amounts and retail stores data</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2012 (53 Weeks)	Fiscal 2011 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2010 (52 Weeks)
<b>Results of Operations</b>					
Net revenues	\$4,698,719	\$4,387,889	\$4,042,870	\$3,720,895	\$3,504,158
Net revenue growth	7.1%	8.5%	8.7%	6.2%	12.9%
Comparable brand revenue growth <sup>1</sup>	7.1%	8.8%	6.1%	7.3%	13.9%
Gross profit	\$1,800,504	\$1,704,216	\$1,592,476	\$1,459,856	\$1,373,859
Gross margin	38.3%	38.8%	39.4%	39.2%	39.2%
Operating income	\$ 502,265	\$ 452,098	\$ 409,163	\$ 381,732	\$ 323,414
Operating margin <sup>2</sup>	10.7%	10.3%	10.1%	10.3%	9.2%
Net earnings	\$ 308,854	\$ 278,902	\$ 256,730	\$ 236,931	\$ 200,227
Basic earnings per share	\$ 3.30	\$ 2.89	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.27	\$ 1.87
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 3.24	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.54	\$ 2.22	\$ 1.83
Weighted average basic shares outstanding during the period	93,634	96,669	99,266	104,352	106,956
Weighted average diluted shares outstanding during the period	95,200	98,765	101,051	106,582	109,522
<b>Financial Position</b>					
Working capital	\$ 515,975	\$ 558,007	\$ 659,645	\$ 704,567	\$ 735,878
Total assets	\$2,330,277	\$2,336,734	\$2,187,679	\$2,060,838	\$2,131,762
Return on assets	13.2%	12.3%	12.0%	11.3%	9.5%
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 461,697	\$ 453,769	\$ 364,127	\$ 291,334	\$ 355,989
Capital expenditures	\$ 204,800	\$ 193,953	\$ 205,404	\$ 130,353	\$ 61,906
Long-term debt and other long-term obligations	\$ 62,698	\$ 61,780	\$ 50,216	\$ 52,015	\$ 59,048
Stockholders' equity	\$1,224,706	\$1,256,002	\$1,309,138	\$1,255,262	\$1,258,863
Stockholders' equity per share (book value)	\$ 13.33	\$ 13.35	\$ 13.39	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.00
Return on equity	24.9%	21.7%	20.0%	18.8%	16.2%
Annual dividends declared per share	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.24	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.58
<b>E-commerce Net Revenues</b>					
E-commerce net revenue growth	12.1%	13.1%	14.5%	12.4%	18.6%
E-commerce net revenues as a percent of net revenues	50.5%	48.2%	46.2%	43.9%	41.5%
<b>Retail Net Revenues</b>					
Retail net revenue growth	2.4%	4.6%	4.1%	1.8%	9.2%
Retail net revenues as a percent of net revenues	49.5%	51.8%	53.8%	56.1%	58.5%
Number of stores at year-end	601	585	581	576	592
Store selling square footage at year-end	3,684,000	3,590,000	3,548,000	3,535,000	3,609,000
Store leased square footage at year-end	5,965,000	5,838,000	5,778,000	5,743,000	5,831,000

<sup>1</sup> Comparable brand revenue is calculated on a 52-week to 52-week basis, with the exception of fiscal 2012 which was calculated on a 53-week to 53-week basis. See definition of comparable brand revenue within "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

<sup>2</sup> Operating margin is defined as operating income as a percent of net revenues.

The information set forth above is not necessarily indicative of future operations and should be read in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and the Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## **ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition, results of operations, and liquidity and capital resources for the 52 weeks ended February 1, 2015 ("fiscal 2014"), the 52 weeks ended February 2, 2014 ("fiscal 2013"), and the 53 weeks ended February 3, 2013 ("fiscal 2012") should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto. All explanations of changes in operational results are discussed in order of magnitude.

### **OVERVIEW**

In fiscal 2014, our net revenues increased 7.1% to \$4,698,719,000, compared to \$4,387,889,000 in fiscal 2013, with comparable brand revenue growth of 7.1%. Diluted earnings per share increased to \$3.24 in fiscal 2014 (including a \$0.04 benefit from our share of the VISA/MasterCard antitrust litigation settlement), versus \$2.82 in fiscal 2013 (including a \$0.02 charge related to the retirement of one of our former brand presidents), and we returned \$350,135,000 to our stockholders through stock repurchases and dividends.

E-commerce net revenues in fiscal 2014 increased by \$255,672,000, or 12.1%, compared to fiscal 2013, with increases across all brands, led by West Elm, Pottery Barn and Williams-Sonoma. E-commerce net revenues generated more than 50% of our total company net revenues in fiscal 2014 versus 48% in fiscal 2013.

Retail net revenues in fiscal 2014 increased by \$55,158,000, or 2.4%, compared to fiscal 2013, led by West Elm and Pottery Barn, partially offset by a decrease in Williams-Sonoma due to store closures at the end of fiscal 2013.

During fiscal 2014, we had net revenue growth in all of our brands and across channels. In Pottery Barn, our largest brand, comparable brand revenues increased 5.8% in fiscal 2014, on top of an increase of 10.4% in fiscal 2013. This growth was primarily driven by our upholstery and leather furniture collections. In the Williams-Sonoma brand, comparable brand revenues increased 3.8% in fiscal 2014 compared to fiscal 2013, with solid performance across our cookware, food, entertaining and tabletop product categories. In West Elm, comparable brand revenues grew 18.2% in fiscal 2014, on top of an increase of 17.4% in fiscal 2013. Growth in the brand was broad-based across all categories. In Pottery Barn Kids, comparable brand revenues increased 5.9% in fiscal 2014 compared to fiscal 2013, led by our nursery, furniture, seasonal and school gear collections. In PBteen, comparable brand revenues increased 5.7% in fiscal 2014, on top of an increase of 14.1% in fiscal 2013, driven by our textiles and furniture collections.

In fiscal 2014, we made progress against our long-term strategic growth initiatives, including strengthening our brands; laying the foundation for global expansion and new business development; investing in our supply chain to reduce cost and improve service; and investing in e-commerce, as well as the technologies and infrastructure underlying all of our initiatives.

As we look to fiscal 2015, we plan to invest in those areas where we see sustainable, long-term returns for our stockholders by making investments in: our e-commerce platform; our supply chain initiatives; new stores, particularly in the West Elm brand; and our longer-term growth initiatives, including our newer businesses and global expansion. Looking ahead, we see opportunities for continued growth and believe we are well positioned to deliver on all of our long-term strategic growth initiatives.



## Results of Operations

### NET REVENUES

Net revenues consist of e-commerce net revenues and retail net revenues. E-commerce net revenues include sales of merchandise to customers through our e-commerce websites and our catalogs, as well as shipping fees. Retail net revenues include sales of merchandise to customers at our retail stores, as well as shipping fees on any products shipped to our customers' homes. Shipping fees consist of revenue received from customers for delivery of merchandise to their homes. Revenues are presented net of sales returns and other discounts.

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014		Fiscal 2013		Fiscal 2012	
	(52 Weeks)	% Total	(52 Weeks)	% Total	(53 Weeks)	% Total
E-commerce net revenues	\$2,370,694	50.5%	\$2,115,022	48.2%	\$1,869,386	46.2%
Retail net revenues	2,328,025	49.5%	2,272,867	51.8%	2,173,484	53.8%
Net revenues	\$4,698,719	100.0%	\$4,387,889	100.0%	\$4,042,870	100.0%

Net revenues in fiscal 2014 increased by \$310,830,000, or 7.1%, compared to fiscal 2013, with comparable brand revenue growth of 7.1%. This increase was primarily driven by the West Elm and Pottery Barn brands.

Net revenues in fiscal 2013 increased by \$345,019,000, or 8.5%, compared to fiscal 2012, with comparable brand revenue growth of 8.8%. This increase was primarily driven by the Pottery Barn, West Elm and Pottery Barn Kids brands, partially offset by the loss of the additional week of net revenues in fiscal 2012.

The following table summarizes our net revenues by brand for fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012.

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2012 (53 Weeks)
Pottery Barn	\$2,022,331	\$1,910,978	\$1,752,997
Williams-Sonoma	994,651	978,002	980,709
West Elm	669,074	531,305	430,099
Pottery Barn Kids	624,594	597,628	557,516
PBteen	260,617	246,449	220,081
Other	127,452	123,527	101,468
Total	\$4,698,719	\$4,387,889	\$4,042,870

### *Comparable Brand Revenue*

Comparable brand revenue includes retail comparable store sales and e-commerce sales, as well as shipping fees, sales returns and other discounts associated with current period sales. Outlet comparable store net revenues are included in their respective brands. Comparable brand revenue excludes sales from certain operations until such time that we believe those sales are meaningful to evaluating the performance of the brand. Sales related to our international franchised stores have also been excluded as they are not operated by us.

Comparable stores are defined as permanent stores where gross square footage did not change by more than 20% in the previous 12 months and which have been open for at least 12 consecutive months without closure for seven or more consecutive days.

<i>Comparable brand revenue growth (decline)</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2012 (53 Weeks)
Pottery Barn	5.8%	10.4%	8.5%
Williams-Sonoma	3.8%	1.5%	(1.7%)
West Elm	18.2%	17.4%	17.4%
Pottery Barn Kids	5.9%	7.8%	5.6%
PBteen	5.7%	14.1%	1.7%
Total	7.1%	8.8%	6.1%

## E-COMMERCE NET REVENUES

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2012 (53 Weeks)
E-commerce net revenues	\$2,370,694	\$2,115,022	\$1,869,386
E-commerce net revenue growth	12.1%	13.1%	14.5%

E-commerce net revenues in fiscal 2014 increased by \$255,672,000, or 12.1%, compared to fiscal 2013, with increases across all brands, led by West Elm, Pottery Barn and Williams-Sonoma. E-commerce net revenues generated more than 50% of our total company net revenues in fiscal 2014 versus 48% in fiscal 2013.

E-commerce net revenues in fiscal 2013 increased by \$245,636,000, or 13.1%, compared to fiscal 2012, with growth across all brands, primarily led by Pottery Barn, West Elm, Pottery Barn Kids and PBteen, partially offset by the loss of the additional week of net revenues in fiscal 2012.

## RETAIL NET REVENUES AND OTHER DATA

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2012 (53 Weeks)
Retail net revenues	\$2,328,025	\$2,272,867	\$2,173,484
Retail net revenue growth	2.4%	4.6%	4.1%
Store count – beginning of year	585	581	576
Store openings	35	30	30
Store closings	(19)	(26)	(25)
Store count – end of year	601	585	581
Store selling square footage at year-end	3,684,000	3,590,000	3,548,000
Store leased square footage (“LSF”) at year-end	5,965,000	5,838,000	5,778,000

	Fiscal 2014		Fiscal 2013		Fiscal 2012	
	Store Count	Avg. LSF Per Store	Store Count	Avg. LSF Per Store	Store Count	Avg. LSF Per Store
Williams-Sonoma	243	6,600	248	6,600	253	6,600
Pottery Barn	199	13,700	194	13,800	192	13,900
Pottery Barn Kids	85	7,600	81	7,900	84	8,100
West Elm	69	13,700	58	14,100	48	14,900
Rejuvenation	5	10,000	4	13,200	4	13,200
Total	601	9,900	585	10,000	581	9,900

Retail net revenues in fiscal 2014 increased by \$55,158,000, or 2.4%, compared to fiscal 2013, led by West Elm and Pottery Barn, partially offset by a decrease in Williams-Sonoma due to store closures at the end of fiscal 2013.

Retail net revenues in fiscal 2013 increased by \$99,383,000, or 4.6%, compared to fiscal 2012. This increase was primarily driven by Pottery Barn, West Elm and our international franchise operations, partially offset by a decrease in Williams-Sonoma and the loss of the additional week of net revenues in fiscal 2012.

## COST OF GOODS SOLD

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	% Net Revenues	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)	% Net Revenues	Fiscal 2012 (53 Weeks)	% Net Revenues
Cost of goods sold <sup>1</sup>	\$2,898,215	61.7%	\$2,683,673	61.2%	\$2,450,394	60.6%

<sup>1</sup> Includes occupancy expenses of \$603,357,000, \$561,586,000 and \$517,300,000 in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively.

Cost of goods sold includes cost of goods, occupancy expenses and shipping costs. Cost of goods consists of cost of merchandise, inbound freight expenses, freight-to-store expenses and other inventory related costs such as shrinkage, damages and replacements. Occupancy expenses consist of rent, depreciation and other occupancy costs, including common area maintenance, property taxes and utilities. Shipping costs consist of third party delivery services and shipping materials.

Our classification of expenses in cost of goods sold may not be comparable to other public companies, as we do not include non-occupancy related costs associated with our distribution network in cost of goods sold. These costs, which include distribution network employment, third party warehouse management and other distribution related administrative expenses, are recorded in selling, general and administrative expenses.

Within our reportable segments, the e-commerce channel does not incur freight-to-store or store occupancy expenses, and typically operates with lower markdowns and inventory shrinkage than the retail channel. However, the e-commerce channel incurs higher customer shipping, damage and replacement costs than the retail channel.

#### *Fiscal 2014 vs. Fiscal 2013*

Cost of goods sold increased by \$214,542,000, or 8.0%, in fiscal 2014 compared to fiscal 2013. Cost of goods sold as a percentage of net revenues increased to 61.7% in fiscal 2014 from 61.2% in fiscal 2013. This increase was primarily driven by lower selling margins.

In the e-commerce channel, cost of goods sold as a percentage of net revenues increased in fiscal 2014 compared to fiscal 2013 primarily driven by lower selling margins and an increase in occupancy expenses.

In the retail channel, cost of goods sold as a percentage of net revenues remained relatively flat in fiscal 2014 compared to fiscal 2013 due to an increase in occupancy expenses offset by higher selling margins.

#### *Fiscal 2013 vs. Fiscal 2012*

Cost of goods sold increased by \$233,279,000, or 9.5%, in fiscal 2013 compared to fiscal 2012. Cost of goods sold as a percentage of net revenues increased to 61.2% in fiscal 2013 from 60.6% in fiscal 2012. This increase was primarily driven by lower selling margins.

In the e-commerce channel, cost of goods sold as a percentage of net revenues remained relatively flat in fiscal 2013 compared to fiscal 2012.

In the retail channel, cost of goods sold as a percentage of net revenues increased in fiscal 2013 compared to fiscal 2012 primarily driven by lower selling margins and occupancy deleverage primarily from the capital investments in our business, including the investments in our company-owned global expansion and the loss of revenues from the additional week in fiscal 2012.

### **SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	% Net Revenues	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)	% Net Revenues	Fiscal 2012 (53 Weeks)	% Net Revenues
Selling, general and administrative expenses	\$1,298,239	27.6%	\$1,252,118	28.5%	\$1,183,313	29.3%

Selling, general and administrative expenses consist of non-occupancy related costs associated with our retail stores, distribution warehouses, customer care centers, supply chain operations (buying, receiving and inspection) and corporate administrative functions. These costs include employment, advertising, third party credit card processing and other general expenses.

We experience differing employment and advertising costs as a percentage of net revenues within the retail and e-commerce channels due to their distinct distribution and marketing strategies. Store employment costs represent a greater percentage of retail net revenues than employment costs as a percentage of net revenues within the e-commerce channel. However, advertising expenses are higher within the e-commerce channel than in the retail channel.

#### *Fiscal 2014 vs. Fiscal 2013*

Selling, general and administrative expenses for fiscal 2014 increased by \$46,121,000, or 3.7%, compared to fiscal 2013. Selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenues decreased to 27.6% in fiscal 2014 from 28.5% in fiscal 2013. This decrease as a percentage of net revenues was primarily driven by greater advertising efficiency, lower general expenses, including litigation settlement income recorded of \$7,414,000, and the leverage of employment costs.

In the e-commerce channel, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenues decreased in fiscal 2014 compared to fiscal 2013 primarily driven by greater advertising efficiency.

In the retail channel, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenues increased in fiscal 2014 compared to fiscal 2013 primarily driven by employment cost deleverage, partially offset by lower general expenses.

#### *Fiscal 2013 vs. Fiscal 2012*

Selling, general and administrative expenses for fiscal 2013 increased by \$68,805,000, or 5.8%, compared to fiscal 2012. Including employee separation charges of \$2,932,000, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenues decreased to 28.5% for fiscal 2013 from 29.3% for fiscal 2012 (which included employee separation charges of \$6,935,000 and asset impairment charges of \$6,071,000). This decrease as a percentage of net revenues was primarily driven by greater advertising efficiency due to increasing net revenues, as well as a reduction in year-over-year asset impairment and employee separation charges.

In the e-commerce channel, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenues decreased for fiscal 2013 compared to fiscal 2012 primarily driven by greater advertising efficiency due to increasing net revenues.

In the retail channel, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenues decreased for fiscal 2013 compared to fiscal 2012 primarily driven by a reduction in year-over-year asset impairment charges and the leverage of employment costs due to increasing net revenues.

### **INCOME TAXES**

Our effective income tax rate was 38.5% for fiscal 2014, 38.4% for fiscal 2013, and 37.4% for fiscal 2012. The increase in the effective income tax rate in fiscal 2013 over fiscal 2012 was primarily driven by certain favorable income tax resolutions and credits in fiscal 2012.

### **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

As of February 1, 2015, we held \$222,927,000 in cash and cash equivalents, the majority of which is held in demand deposit accounts, of which \$81,124,000 was held by our foreign subsidiaries. As is consistent within our industry, our cash balances are seasonal in nature, with the fourth quarter historically representing a significantly higher level of cash than other periods.

Throughout the fiscal year, we utilize our cash balances to build our inventory levels in preparation for our fourth quarter holiday sales. In fiscal 2015, we plan to use our cash resources to fund our inventory and inventory related purchases, advertising and marketing initiatives, stock repurchases, dividend payments and purchases of property and equipment. In addition to our cash balances on hand, we have a \$500,000,000 unsecured revolving line of credit (“credit facility”) that may be used to borrow revolving loans or to request the issuance of letters of credit. We may, upon notice to the administrative agent, request existing or new lenders to increase the credit facility by up to \$250,000,000, at such lenders’ option, to provide for a total of \$750,000,000 of unsecured revolving credit. During fiscal 2014, we had borrowings of \$90,000,000 under the credit facility, all of which were repaid in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2014. During fiscal 2013, we had no borrowings under the credit facility.

During fiscal 2014, we redeemed restricted cash deposits of \$14,289,000 previously held under collateralized trust agreements. These deposits, which secured potential liabilities associated with our workers’ compensation

and other insurance programs, were replaced with standby letters of credit. As of February 1, 2015, a total of \$14,760,000 in issued but undrawn standby letters of credit was outstanding under the credit facility. Additionally, as of February 1, 2015, we had three unsecured letter of credit reimbursement facilities, which were amended during the year, for a total of \$70,000,000, of which an aggregate of \$9,651,000 was outstanding. These letter of credit facilities represent only a future commitment to fund inventory purchases to which we had not taken legal title. We are currently in compliance with all of our financial covenants under the credit facility and, based on our current projections, we expect to remain in compliance throughout fiscal 2015. We believe our cash on hand, in addition to our available credit facilities, will provide adequate liquidity for our business operations over the next 12 months.

#### *Cash Flows from Operating Activities*

For fiscal 2014, net cash provided by operating activities was \$461,697,000 compared to \$453,769,000 in fiscal 2013. For fiscal 2014, net cash provided by operating activities was primarily attributable to net earnings adjusted for non-cash items and an increase in customer deposits, partially offset by an increase in merchandise inventories. This represents an increase in net cash provided compared to fiscal 2013 primarily due to a decrease in inventory purchases and an increase in net earnings adjusted for non-cash items, partially offset by the timing of payments associated with accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

For fiscal 2013, net cash provided by operating activities was \$453,769,000 compared to \$364,127,000 in fiscal 2012. For fiscal 2013, net cash provided by operating activities was primarily attributable to an increase in net earnings adjusted for non-cash items and an increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities, partially offset by an increase in merchandise inventories. This represents an increase in net cash provided compared to fiscal 2012 primarily due to the timing of payments associated with accounts payable and accrued liabilities, partially offset by an increase in inventory purchases.

#### *Cash Flows from Investing Activities*

For fiscal 2014, net cash used in investing activities was \$188,600,000 compared to \$190,624,000 for fiscal 2013, and was primarily attributable to purchases of property and equipment. Net cash used compared to fiscal 2013 decreased primarily due to the redemption of restricted cash deposits, partially offset by an increase in purchases of property and equipment.

For fiscal 2013, net cash used in investing activities was \$190,624,000 compared to \$206,815,000 for fiscal 2012, and was primarily attributable to purchases of property and equipment. Net cash used compared to fiscal 2012 decreased primarily due to a decrease in purchases of property and equipment.

#### *Cash Flows from Financing Activities*

For fiscal 2014, net cash used in financing activities was \$379,020,000 compared to \$355,376,000 in fiscal 2013. For fiscal 2014, net cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to the repurchase of common stock of \$224,377,000 and the payment of dividends of \$125,758,000. Net cash used compared to fiscal 2013 increased primarily due to an increase in tax withholding payments related to stock-based awards.

For fiscal 2013, net cash used in financing activities was \$355,376,000 compared to \$236,445,000 in fiscal 2012. For fiscal 2013, net cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to the repurchase of common stock of \$239,274,000 and the payment of dividends of \$111,581,000. Net cash used compared to fiscal 2012 increased primarily due to an increase in the repurchase of common stock.

#### *Dividends*

See section titled Dividends within Part II, Item 5 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

#### *Stock Repurchase Programs*

See section titled Stock Repurchase Programs within Part II, Item 5 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

### Contractual Obligations

The following table provides summary information concerning our future contractual obligations as of February 1, 2015:

<i>In thousands</i>	Payments Due by Period <sup>1</sup>				Total
	Fiscal 2015	Fiscal 2016 to Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2019 to Fiscal 2020	Thereafter	
Operating leases <sup>2</sup>	\$ 237,975	\$ 602,787	\$ 289,372	\$ 464,191	\$ 1,594,325
Purchase obligations <sup>3</sup>	792,816	9,792	—	—	802,608
Memphis-based distribution facilities obligation <sup>4</sup>	1,968	—	—	—	1,968
Interest	191	—	—	—	191
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,032,950</b>	<b>\$ 612,579</b>	<b>\$ 289,372</b>	<b>\$ 464,191</b>	<b>\$ 2,399,092</b>

<sup>1</sup> This table excludes \$16.8 million of liabilities for unrecognized tax benefits associated with uncertain tax positions as we are not able to reasonably estimate when and if cash payments for these liabilities will occur. This amount, however, has been recorded as a liability in our accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheet as of February 1, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Projected payments include only those amounts that are fixed and determinable as of the reporting date. See Note E to our Consolidated Financial Statements for discussion of our operating leases.

<sup>3</sup> Represents estimated commitments at year-end to purchase inventory and other goods and services in the normal course of business to meet operational requirements.

<sup>4</sup> Represents bond-related debt pertaining to the consolidation of our Memphis-based distribution facility. See Note F to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

### Other Contractual Obligations

We have other liabilities reflected in our Consolidated Balance Sheet. The payment obligations associated with these liabilities are not reflected in the table above due to the absence of scheduled maturities. The timing of these payments cannot be determined, except for amounts estimated to be payable in fiscal 2015, which are included in our current liabilities as of February 1, 2015.

We are party to a variety of contractual agreements under which we may be obligated to indemnify the other party for certain matters. These contracts primarily relate to our commercial contracts, operating leases, trademarks, intellectual property, financial agreements and various other agreements. Under these contracts, we may provide certain routine indemnification relating to representations and warranties or personal injury matters. The terms of these indemnifications range in duration and may not be explicitly defined. Historically, we have not made significant payments for these indemnifications. We believe that if we were to incur a loss in any of these matters, the loss would not have a material effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

### Commercial Commitments

The following table provides summary information concerning our outstanding commercial commitments as of February 1, 2015:

<i>In thousands</i>	Amount of Outstanding Commitment Expiration By Period <sup>1</sup>				Total
	Fiscal 2015	Fiscal 2016 to Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2019 to Fiscal 2020	Thereafter	
Standby letters of credit	\$ 14,760	—	—	—	\$ 14,760
Letter of credit facilities	9,651	—	—	—	9,651
Credit facility	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,411</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$ 24,411</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Note C to our Consolidated Financial Statements for discussion of our borrowing arrangements.

## IMPACT OF INFLATION

The impact of inflation (or deflation) on our results of operations for the past three fiscal years has not been significant. However, we cannot be certain of the effect inflation (or deflation) may have on our results of operations in the future.

## CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations is based on our Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these Consolidated Financial Statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. These estimates and assumptions are evaluated on an ongoing basis and are based on historical experience and various other factors that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

We believe the following critical accounting policies used in the preparation of our Consolidated Financial Statements include significant estimates and assumptions.

### *Merchandise Inventories*

Merchandise inventories, net of an allowance for excess quantities and obsolescence, are stated at the lower of cost (weighted average method) or market. To determine if the value of our inventory should be marked down below cost, we consider current and anticipated demand, customer preferences and age of the merchandise. The significant estimates used in inventory valuation are obsolescence (including excess and slow-moving inventory and lower of cost or market reserves) and estimates of inventory shrinkage. We reserve for obsolescence based on historical trends, aging reports, specific identification and our estimates of future sales and selling prices.

Reserves for shrinkage are estimated and recorded throughout the year, at the brand and channel level, as a percentage of net sales based on historical shrinkage results, expectations of future shrinkage and current inventory levels. Actual shrinkage is recorded at year-end based on the results of our physical inventory count and can vary from our estimates due to such factors as changes in operations, the mix of our inventory (which ranges from large furniture to small tabletop items) and execution against loss prevention initiatives in our stores, distribution centers, off-site storage locations, and with our third party warehouse and transportation providers. Accordingly, there is no shrinkage reserve at year-end.

Our obsolescence and shrinkage reserve calculations contain estimates that require management to make assumptions and to apply judgment regarding a number of factors, including market conditions, the selling environment, historical results and current inventory trends. If actual obsolescence or shrinkage estimates change from our original estimate, we will adjust our reserves accordingly throughout the year. We have made no material changes to our assumptions included in the calculations of the obsolescence and shrinkage reserves throughout the year. In addition, we do not believe a 10% change in our inventory reserves would have a material effect on net earnings. As of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, our inventory obsolescence reserves were \$10,244,000 and \$10,406,000, respectively.

### *Advertising and Prepaid Catalog Expenses*

Advertising expenses consist of media and production costs related to catalog mailings, e-commerce advertising and other direct marketing activities. All advertising costs are expensed as incurred, or upon the release of the initial advertisement, with the exception of prepaid catalog expenses. Prepaid catalog expenses consist primarily of third party incremental direct costs, including creative design, paper, printing, postage and mailing costs for all of our direct response catalogs. Such costs are capitalized as prepaid catalog expenses and are amortized over their expected period of future benefit. Such amortization is based upon the ratio of estimated e-commerce revenues for the period to the total estimated e-commerce revenues over the life of the catalog on an individual catalog basis. Estimated e-commerce revenues over the life of the catalog are based upon various factors such as

the total number of catalogs and pages circulated, the probability and magnitude of consumer response and the assortment of merchandise offered. Each catalog is generally fully amortized over a six to nine month period, with the majority of the amortization occurring within the first four to five months. Prepaid catalog expenses are evaluated for realizability on a monthly basis by comparing the carrying amount associated with each catalog to the estimated probable future profitability (net revenues less merchandise cost of goods sold, selling expenses and catalog-related costs) of that catalog. If the estimated future profitability of the catalog is below its carrying amount, the catalog is impaired accordingly.

Total advertising expenses (including catalog advertising, e-commerce advertising and all other advertising costs) were approximately \$330,070,000, \$325,708,000 and \$318,338,000 in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively.

#### *Property and Equipment*

Property and equipment is stated at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

We review the carrying value of all long-lived assets for impairment, primarily at a store level, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. Our impairment analyses determine whether projected cash flows from operations are sufficient to recover the carrying value of these assets. Impairment may result when the carrying value of the asset exceeds the estimated undiscounted future cash flows over its remaining useful life. For store impairment, our estimate of undiscounted future cash flows over the store lease term is based upon our experience, historical operations of the stores and estimates of future store profitability and economic conditions. The future estimates of store profitability and economic conditions require estimating such factors as sales growth, gross margin, employment rates, lease escalations, inflation and the overall economics of the retail industry, and are therefore subject to variability and difficult to predict. Actual future results may differ from those estimates. If a long-lived asset is found to be impaired, the amount recognized for impairment is equal to the difference between the asset's net carrying value and its fair value. Long-lived assets are measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis using Level 3 inputs as defined in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value is based on the present value of estimated future cash flows using a discount rate that approximates our weighted average cost of capital.

During fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, we recorded expense of approximately \$241,000, \$561,000 and \$6,071,000, respectively, associated with asset impairment charges primarily related to retail stores, all of which is recorded within selling, general and administrative expenses.

#### *Goodwill*

Goodwill is not amortized, but rather is subject to impairment testing annually (on the first day of the fourth quarter), or between annual tests whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the fair value of a reporting unit may be below its carrying amount. The first step of the impairment test requires determining the fair value of the reporting unit. We use the income approach, whereby we calculate the fair value based on the present value of estimated future cash flows using a discount rate that approximates our weighted average cost of capital. The process of evaluating the potential impairment of goodwill is subjective and requires significant estimates and assumptions about the future such as sales growth, gross margins, employment rates, capital expenditures, inflation and future economic and market conditions. Actual future results may differ from those estimates. If the carrying value of the reporting unit's assets and liabilities, including goodwill, is in excess of its fair value, goodwill may be impaired, and we must perform a second step of comparing the implied fair value of the goodwill to its carrying value to determine the impairment charge, if any. At February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, we had goodwill of \$18,740,000 and \$18,946,000, respectively, included in other assets, primarily related to our fiscal 2011 acquisition of Rejuvenation Inc. We did not recognize any goodwill impairment in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 or fiscal 2012.

#### *Self-Insured Liabilities*

We are primarily self-insured for workers' compensation, employee health benefits and product and general liability claims. We record self-insurance liabilities based on claims filed, including the development of those



claims, and an estimate of claims incurred but not yet reported. Factors affecting these estimates include future inflation rates, changes in severity, benefit level changes, medical costs and claim settlement patterns. Should a different amount of claims occur compared to what was estimated, or costs of the claims increase or decrease beyond what was anticipated, reserves may need to be adjusted accordingly. We determine our workers' compensation liability and product and general liability claims reserves based on an actuarial analysis of historical claims data. Self-insurance reserves for employee health benefits, workers' compensation and product and general liability claims were \$24,901,000 and \$21,755,000 as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, respectively.

#### *Income Taxes*

Income taxes are accounted for using the asset and liability method. Under this method, deferred income taxes arise from temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in our Consolidated Financial Statements. We record reserves for our estimates of probable settlements of foreign and domestic tax examinations. At any one time, many tax years are subject to audit by various taxing jurisdictions. The results of these examinations and negotiations with taxing authorities may affect the ultimate settlement of these issues. Additionally, our effective tax rate in a given financial statement period may be materially impacted by changes in the mix and level of our earnings in various taxing jurisdictions.

## **ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

We are exposed to market risks, which include significant deterioration of the U.S. and foreign markets, changes in U.S. interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, including the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, and the effects of economic uncertainty which may affect the prices we pay our vendors in the foreign countries in which we do business. We do not engage in financial transactions for trading or speculative purposes.

### *Interest Rate Risk*

Our line of credit is the only instrument we hold with a variable interest rate which subjects us to interest rate risk. During fiscal 2014, we had borrowings of \$90,000,000 under the credit facility, all of which were repaid in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2014. If the interest rate on this existing variable rate debt instrument rose 10% our results from operations and cash flows would not be materially affected.

In addition, we have fixed and variable income investments consisting of short-term investments classified as cash and cash equivalents, which are also affected by changes in market interest rates. As of February 1, 2015, our investments, made primarily in demand deposit accounts, are stated at cost and approximate their fair values.

### *Foreign Currency Risks*

We purchase a significant amount of inventory from vendors outside of the U.S. in transactions that are denominated in U.S. dollars. Approximately 2% of our international purchase transactions are in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, primarily the euro. Any foreign currency impact related to these international purchase transactions was not significant to us during fiscal 2014 or fiscal 2013. Since we pay for the majority of our international purchases in U.S. dollars, however, a decline in the U.S. dollar relative to other foreign currencies would subject us to risks associated with increased purchasing costs from our vendors in their effort to offset any lost profits associated with any currency devaluation. We cannot predict with certainty the effect these increased costs may have on our financial statements or results of operations.

In addition, our retail and e-commerce businesses in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, and our operations throughout Asia and Europe, expose us to market risk associated with foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. Substantially all of our purchases and sales are denominated in U.S. dollars, which limits our exposure to this risk. While the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations was not material to us in fiscal 2014, we have continued to see volatility in the exchange rates in the countries in which we do business. As we continue to expand globally, the foreign currency exchange risk related to the transactions of our foreign subsidiaries may increase. To mitigate this risk, we hedge a portion of our foreign currency exposure with foreign currency forward contracts in accordance with our risk management policies (see Note M to our Consolidated Financial Statements).

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

**Williams-Sonoma, Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statements of Earnings**

<i>In thousands, except per share amounts</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Ended</i>		
	Feb. 1, 2015 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 2, 2014 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 3, 2013 (53 Weeks)
Net revenues	\$ 4,698,719	\$ 4,387,889	\$ 4,042,870
Cost of goods sold	2,898,215	2,683,673	2,450,394
Gross profit	1,800,504	1,704,216	1,592,476
Selling, general and administrative expenses	1,298,239	1,252,118	1,183,313
Operating income	502,265	452,098	409,163
Interest (income) expense, net	62	(584)	(793)
Earnings before income taxes	502,203	452,682	409,956
Income taxes	193,349	173,780	153,226
Net earnings	\$ 308,854	\$ 278,902	\$ 256,730
Basic earnings per share	\$ 3.30	\$ 2.89	\$ 2.59
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 3.24	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.54
Shares used in calculation of earnings per share:			
Basic	93,634	96,669	99,266
Diluted	95,200	98,765	101,051

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

**Williams-Sonoma, Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income**

<i>In thousands</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Ended</i>		
	Feb. 1, 2015 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 2, 2014 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 3, 2013 (53 Weeks)
Net earnings	\$ 308,854	\$ 278,902	\$ 256,730
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(9,305)	(7,850)	1,043
Change in fair value of derivative financial instruments, net of tax	806	870	0
Reclassification adjustment for realized gains on derivative financial instruments	(573)	(129)	0
Comprehensive income	\$ 299,782	\$ 271,793	\$ 257,773

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

*Williams-Sonoma, Inc.*  
*Consolidated Balance Sheets*

*In thousands, except per share amounts*

Feb. 1, 2015    Feb. 2, 2014

ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 222,927	\$ 330,121
Restricted cash	0	14,289
Accounts receivable, net	67,465	60,330
Merchandise inventories, net	887,701	813,160
Prepaid catalog expenses	33,942	33,556
Prepaid expenses	36,265	35,309
Deferred income taxes, net	130,618	121,486
Other assets	13,005	10,852
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,391,923</b>	<b>1,419,103</b>
Property and equipment, net	883,012	849,293
Non-current deferred income taxes, net	4,265	13,824
Other assets, net	51,077	54,514
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$2,330,277</b>	<b>\$2,336,734</b>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 397,037	\$ 404,791
Accrued salaries, benefits and other	136,012	138,181
Customer deposits	261,679	228,193
Income taxes payable	32,488	49,365
Current portion of long-term debt	1,968	1,785
Other liabilities	46,764	38,781
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>875,948</b>	<b>861,096</b>
Deferred rent and lease incentives	166,925	157,856
Long-term debt	0	1,968
Other long-term obligations	62,698	59,812
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,105,571</b>	<b>1,080,732</b>
Commitments and contingencies – See Note J		
Stockholders' equity		
Preferred stock: \$.01 par value; 7,500 shares authorized; none issued	0	0
Common stock: \$.01 par value; 253,125 shares authorized; 91,891 and 94,049 shares issued and outstanding at February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, respectively	919	941
Additional paid-in capital	527,261	522,595
Retained earnings	701,214	729,043
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(2,548)	6,524
Treasury stock, at cost	(2,140)	(3,101)
<b>Total stockholders' equity</b>	<b>1,224,706</b>	<b>1,256,002</b>
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$2,330,277</b>	<b>\$2,336,734</b>

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

**Williams-Sonoma, Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity**

<i>In thousands</i>	Common Stock		Additional	Retained	Accumulated	Treasury	Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-in	Earnings	Other	Stock	Stockholders'
			Capital		Comprehensive		Equity
					Income		
Balance at January 29, 2012	100,451	\$1,005	\$478,720	\$ 762,947	\$12,590	\$ —	\$1,255,262
Net earnings	—	—	—	256,730	—	—	256,730
Foreign currency translation adjustments	—	—	—	—	1,043	—	1,043
Exercise of stock-based awards and related tax effect	506	5	27,225	—	—	—	27,230
Conversion/release of stock-based awards <sup>1</sup>	739	7	(18,644)	—	—	—	(18,637)
Repurchases of common stock	(3,962)	(40)	(14,741)	(140,299)	—	—	(155,080)
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	31,056	(14)	—	—	31,042
Dividends declared	—	—	—	(88,452)	—	—	(88,452)
Balance at February 3, 2013	97,734	977	503,616	790,912	13,633	—	1,309,138
Net earnings	—	—	—	278,902	—	—	278,902
Foreign currency translation adjustments	—	—	—	—	(7,850)	—	(7,850)
Change in fair value of derivative instruments	—	—	—	—	741	—	741
Exercise of stock-based awards and related tax effect	201	2	15,339	—	—	—	15,341
Conversion/release of stock-based awards <sup>1</sup>	459	5	(18,101)	—	—	—	(18,096)
Repurchases of common stock	(4,345)	(43)	(17,047)	(219,083)	—	(3,101)	(239,274)
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	38,788	—	—	—	38,788
Dividends declared	—	—	—	(121,688)	—	—	(121,688)
Balance at February 2, 2014	94,049	941	522,595	729,043	6,524	(3,101)	1,256,002
Net earnings	—	—	—	308,854	—	—	308,854
Foreign currency translation adjustments	—	—	—	—	(9,305)	—	(9,305)
Change in fair value of derivative instruments	—	—	—	—	233	—	233
Exercise of stock-based awards and related tax effect	116	1	31,021	—	—	—	31,022
Conversion/release of stock-based awards <sup>1</sup>	1,058	10	(56,053)	—	—	—	(56,043)
Repurchases of common stock	(3,332)	(33)	(13,776)	(210,568)	—	—	(224,377)
Reissuance of treasury stock under share-based compensation plans <sup>1</sup>	—	—	(1,158)	(737)	—	961	(934)
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	44,632	—	—	—	44,632
Dividends declared	—	—	—	(125,378)	—	—	(125,378)
Balance at February 1, 2015	91,891	\$ 919	\$527,261	\$ 701,214	\$(2,548)	\$(2,140)	\$1,224,706

<sup>1</sup> Amounts are shown net of shares withheld for employee taxes.

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Williams-Sonoma, Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

<i>In thousands</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Ended</i>		
	Feb. 1, 2015 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 2, 2014 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 3, 2013 (53 Weeks)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net earnings	\$ 308,854	\$ 278,902	\$ 256,730
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	162,273	149,795	134,453
Loss on disposal/impairment of assets	2,410	2,764	8,388
Amortization of deferred lease incentives	(24,419)	(25,382)	(26,694)
Deferred income taxes	(248)	(28,344)	(9,029)
Tax benefit related to stock-based awards	26,952	8,817	12,725
Excess tax benefit related to stock-based awards	(26,560)	(8,743)	(12,683)
Stock-based compensation expense	44,632	38,788	31,042
Other	595	0	0
Changes in:			
Accounts receivable	(9,366)	786	(16,408)
Merchandise inventories	(76,964)	(174,664)	(85,981)
Prepaid catalog expenses	(386)	3,675	(2,937)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(61)	(13,649)	(12,204)
Accounts payable	4,455	135,095	22,461
Accrued salaries, benefits and other current and long-term liabilities	8,867	43,635	9,147
Customer deposits	34,400	21,578	16,962
Deferred rent and lease incentives	23,297	13,238	18,803
Income taxes payable	(17,034)	7,478	19,352
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>461,697</b>	<b>453,769</b>	<b>364,127</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Purchases of property and equipment	(204,800)	(193,953)	(205,404)
Restricted cash receipts (deposits)	14,289	1,766	(1,323)
Proceeds from insurance reimbursements	1,644	1,518	115
Other	267	45	(203)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(188,600)</b>	<b>(190,624)</b>	<b>(206,815)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Repurchase of common stock	(224,377)	(239,274)	(155,080)
Payment of dividends	(125,758)	(111,581)	(87,847)
Borrowings under revolving line of credit	90,000	0	0
Repayments of borrowings under revolving line of credit	(90,000)	0	0
Tax withholdings related to stock-based awards	(56,977)	(18,096)	(18,637)
Excess tax benefit related to stock-based awards	26,560	8,743	12,683
Net proceeds related to stock-based awards	4,077	6,614	14,637
Repayments of long-term obligations	(1,785)	(1,724)	(1,796)
Other	(760)	(58)	(405)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(379,020)</b>	<b>(355,376)</b>	<b>(236,445)</b>
Effect of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	(1,271)	(2,203)	931
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(107,194)	(94,434)	(78,202)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	330,121	424,555	502,757
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 222,927</b>	<b>\$ 330,121</b>	<b>\$ 424,555</b>
<b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:</b>			
Cash paid during the year for interest	\$ 1,269	\$ 1,270	\$ 1,651
Cash paid during the year for income taxes, net of refunds	\$ 172,305	\$ 186,968	\$ 131,440

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

*Williams-Sonoma, Inc.*  
*Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements*

**Note A: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

We are a specialty retailer of high-quality products for the home. These products, representing distinct merchandise strategies – Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, West Elm, PBteen, Williams-Sonoma Home, Rejuvenation, and Mark and Graham – are marketed through e-commerce websites, direct mail catalogs and 601 stores. We have retail and e-commerce businesses in the U.S., Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, and ship our products to customers worldwide. Our catalogs reach customers throughout the U.S. and Australia. In addition, we have unaffiliated franchisees that operate stores in the Middle East and the Philippines.

Intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated.

*Fiscal Year*

Our fiscal year ends on the Sunday closest to January 31, based on a 52 or 53-week year. Fiscal 2014, a 52-week year, ended on February 1, 2015; Fiscal 2013, a 52-week year, ended on February 2, 2014; and fiscal 2012, a 53-week year, ended on February 3, 2013.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. These estimates and assumptions are evaluated on an ongoing basis and are based on historical experience and various other factors that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

*Cash Equivalents*

Cash equivalents include highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less. As of February 1, 2015, we were invested primarily in demand deposit accounts. Book cash overdrafts issued, but not yet presented to the bank for payment, are reclassified to accounts payable.

*Restricted Cash*

Restricted cash represents deposits held in trusts to secure our liabilities associated with our workers' compensation and other insurance programs. During fiscal 2014, we redeemed restricted cash deposits of \$14,289,000 previously held under collateralized trust agreements.

*Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts*

Accounts receivable are stated at their carrying values, net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. Accounts receivable consist primarily of credit card, franchisee and landlord receivables for which collectability is reasonably assured. Receivables are evaluated for collectability on a regular basis and an allowance for doubtful accounts is recorded, if necessary. Our allowance for doubtful accounts was not material to our financial statements as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014.

*Merchandise Inventories*

Merchandise inventories, net of an allowance for excess quantities and obsolescence, are stated at the lower of cost (weighted average method) or market. To determine if the value of our inventory should be marked down below cost, we consider current and anticipated demand, customer preferences and age of the merchandise. The significant estimates used in inventory valuation are obsolescence (including excess and slow-moving inventory and lower of cost or market reserves) and estimates of inventory shrinkage. We reserve for obsolescence based on historical trends, aging reports, specific identification and our estimates of future sales and selling prices.

Reserves for shrinkage are estimated and recorded throughout the year, at the brand and channel level, as a percentage of net sales based on historical shrinkage results, expectations of future shrinkage and current

inventory levels. Actual shrinkage is recorded at year-end based on the results of our physical inventory count and can vary from our estimates due to such factors as changes in operations, the mix of our inventory (which ranges from large furniture to small tabletop items) and execution against loss prevention initiatives in our stores, distribution centers, off-site storage locations, and with our third party warehouse and transportation providers. Accordingly, there is no shrinkage reserve at year-end.

Our obsolescence and shrinkage reserve calculations contain estimates that require management to make assumptions and to apply judgment regarding a number of factors, including market conditions, the selling environment, historical results and current inventory trends. If actual obsolescence or shrinkage estimates change from our original estimate, we will adjust our reserves accordingly throughout the year. We have made no material changes to our assumptions included in the calculations of the obsolescence and shrinkage reserves throughout the year. In addition, we do not believe a 10% change in our inventory reserves would have a material effect on net earnings. As of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, our inventory obsolescence reserves were \$10,244,000 and \$10,406,000, respectively.

#### *Advertising and Prepaid Catalog Expenses*

Advertising expenses consist of media and production costs related to catalog mailings, e-commerce advertising and other direct marketing activities. All advertising costs are expensed as incurred, or upon the release of the initial advertisement, with the exception of prepaid catalog expenses. Prepaid catalog expenses consist primarily of third party incremental direct costs, including creative design, paper, printing, postage and mailing costs for all of our direct response catalogs. Such costs are capitalized as prepaid catalog expenses and are amortized over their expected period of future benefit. Such amortization is based upon the ratio of estimated e-commerce revenues for the period to the total estimated e-commerce revenues over the life of the catalog on an individual catalog basis. Estimated e-commerce revenues over the life of the catalog are based upon various factors such as the total number of catalogs and pages circulated, the probability and magnitude of consumer response and the assortment of merchandise offered. Each catalog is generally fully amortized over a six to nine month period, with the majority of the amortization occurring within the first four to five months. Prepaid catalog expenses are evaluated for realizability on a monthly basis by comparing the carrying amount associated with each catalog to the estimated probable future profitability (net revenues less merchandise cost of goods sold, selling expenses and catalog-related costs) of that catalog. If the estimated future profitability of the catalog is below its carrying amount, the catalog is impaired accordingly.

Total advertising expenses (including catalog advertising, e-commerce advertising and all other advertising costs) were approximately \$330,070,000, \$325,708,000 and \$318,338,000 in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively.

#### *Property and Equipment*

Property and equipment is stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Leasehold improvements	Shorter of estimated useful life or lease term (generally 3 – 22 years)
Fixtures and equipment	2 – 20 years
Buildings and building improvements	10 – 40 years
Capitalized software	2 – 10 years

We review the carrying value of all long-lived assets for impairment, primarily at a store level, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. Our impairment analyses determine whether projected cash flows from operations are sufficient to recover the carrying value of these assets. Impairment may result when the carrying value of the asset exceeds the estimated undiscounted future cash flows over its remaining useful life. For store impairment, our estimate of undiscounted future cash flows over the store lease term is based upon our experience, historical operations of the stores and estimates of



future store profitability and economic conditions. The future estimates of store profitability and economic conditions require estimating such factors as sales growth, gross margin, employment rates, lease escalations, inflation and the overall economics of the retail industry, and are therefore subject to variability and difficult to predict. Actual future results may differ from those estimates. If a long-lived asset is found to be impaired, the amount recognized for impairment is equal to the difference between the asset's net carrying value and its fair value. Long-lived assets are measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis using Level 3 inputs as defined in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value is based on the present value of estimated future cash flows using a discount rate that approximates our weighted average cost of capital.

For any store or facility closure where a lease obligation still exists, we record the estimated future liability associated with the rental obligation on the cease use date.

During fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, we recorded expense of approximately \$241,000, \$561,000 and \$6,071,000, respectively, associated with asset impairment charges primarily related to retail stores, all of which is recorded within selling, general and administrative expenses.

#### *Goodwill*

Goodwill is not amortized, but rather is subject to impairment testing annually (on the first day of the fourth quarter), or between annual tests whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the fair value of a reporting unit may be below its carrying amount. The first step of the impairment test requires determining the fair value of the reporting unit. We use the income approach, whereby we calculate the fair value based on the present value of estimated future cash flows using a discount rate that approximates our weighted average cost of capital. The process of evaluating the potential impairment of goodwill is subjective and requires significant estimates and assumptions about the future, such as sales growth, gross margins, employment rates, capital expenditures, inflation and future economic and market conditions. Actual future results may differ from those estimates. If the carrying value of the reporting unit's assets and liabilities, including goodwill, is in excess of its fair value, goodwill may be impaired, and we must perform a second step of comparing the implied fair value of the goodwill to its carrying value to determine the impairment charge, if any. At February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, we had goodwill of \$18,740,000 and \$18,946,000, respectively, included in other assets, primarily related to our fiscal 2011 acquisition of Rejuvenation Inc. We did not recognize any goodwill impairment in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 or fiscal 2012.

#### *Self-Insured Liabilities*

We are primarily self-insured for workers' compensation, employee health benefits and product and general liability claims. We record self-insurance liabilities based on claims filed, including the development of those claims, and an estimate of claims incurred but not yet reported. Factors affecting these estimates include future inflation rates, changes in severity, benefit level changes, medical costs and claim settlement patterns. Should a different amount of claims occur compared to what was estimated, or costs of the claims increase or decrease beyond what was anticipated, reserves may need to be adjusted accordingly. We determine our workers' compensation liability and product and general liability claims reserves based on an actuarial analysis of historical claims data. Self-insurance reserves for employee health benefits, workers' compensation and product and general liability claims were \$24,901,000 and \$21,755,000 as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, respectively.

#### *Customer Deposits*

Customer deposits are primarily comprised of unredeemed gift cards and merchandise credits and deferred revenue related to undelivered merchandise. We maintain a liability for unredeemed gift cards and merchandise credits until the earlier of redemption, escheatment or four years as we have concluded that the likelihood of our gift cards being redeemed beyond four years from the date of issuance is remote.

#### *Deferred Rent and Lease Incentives*

For leases that contain fixed escalations of the minimum annual lease payment during the original term of the lease, we recognize rental expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term, including the construction period,

and record the difference between rent expense and the amount currently payable as deferred rent. Deferred lease incentives include construction allowances received from landlords, which are amortized on a straight-line basis over the lease term, including the construction period.

#### *Fair Value of Financial Instruments*

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and debt approximate their estimated fair values. We use derivative instruments to hedge against foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. The assets or liabilities associated with our derivative financial instruments are recorded at fair value in either other current assets or other current liabilities. The fair value of our foreign currency derivative instruments is measured using the income approach whereby we use observable market data at the measurement date and standard valuation techniques to convert future amounts to a single present value amount. These observable inputs include spot rates, forward rates, interest rates and credit derivative market rates (refer to Notes M and N for additional information).

#### *Revenue Recognition*

We recognize revenues and the related cost of goods sold (including shipping costs) at the time the products are delivered to our customers. Revenue is recognized for retail sales (excluding home-delivered merchandise) at the point of sale in the store and, for home-delivered merchandise and e-commerce sales, when the merchandise is delivered to the customer. Discounts provided to customers are accounted for as a reduction of sales. We record a reserve for estimated product returns in each reporting period. Shipping and handling fees charged to the customer are recognized as revenue at the time the products are delivered to the customer. Revenues are presented net of any taxes collected from customers and remitted to governmental authorities.

#### *Sales Returns Reserve*

Our customers may return purchased items for an exchange or refund. We record a reserve for estimated product returns, net of cost of goods sold, based on historical return trends together with current product sales performance. A summary of activity in our sales returns reserve is as follows:

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014' (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013' (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2012' (53 Weeks)
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 15,954	\$ 14,397	\$ 14,151
Provision for sales returns	311,911	293,929	270,156
Actual sales returns	(313,083)	(292,372)	(269,910)
Balance at end of year	\$ 14,782	\$ 15,954	\$ 14,397

<sup>1</sup> Amounts are shown net of cost of goods sold.

#### *Vendor Allowances*

We receive allowances or credits from certain vendors for volume rebates. We treat such volume rebates as an offset to the cost of the product or services provided at the time the expense is recorded. These allowances and credits received are recorded in both cost of goods sold and in selling, general and administrative expenses.

#### *Cost of Goods Sold*

Cost of goods sold includes cost of goods, occupancy expenses and shipping costs. Cost of goods consists of cost of merchandise, inbound freight expenses, freight-to-store expenses and other inventory related costs such as shrinkage, damages and replacements. Occupancy expenses consist of rent, depreciation and other occupancy costs, including common area maintenance, property taxes and utilities. Shipping costs consist of third party delivery services and shipping materials.

#### *Selling, General and Administrative Expenses*

Selling, general and administrative expenses consist of non-occupancy related costs associated with our retail stores, distribution warehouses, customer care centers, supply chain operations (buying, receiving and inspection)

and corporate administrative functions. These costs include employment, advertising, third party credit card processing and other general expenses.

#### *Stock-Based Compensation*

We account for stock-based compensation arrangements by measuring and recognizing compensation expense in our Consolidated Financial Statements for all stock-based awards using a fair value based method. Restricted stock units are valued using the closing price of our stock on the date prior to the date of grant. The fair value of each stock-based award is amortized over the requisite service period.

#### *Foreign Currency Translation*

As of February 1, 2015, our retail stores in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, and our operations throughout Asia and Europe expose us to market risk associated with foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations.

Additionally, some of our foreign operations have a functional currency different than the U.S. dollar, such as those in Canada (Canadian dollar), Europe (euro or British pound) and Australia (Australian dollar). Assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars using the current exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date, while revenues and expenses are translated at the average exchange rates during the period. The resulting translation adjustments are recorded as other comprehensive income within stockholders' equity. While the gains and losses resulting from foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations have not been material to us, we have continued to see volatility in the exchange rates in the countries in which we do business. These gains and losses are included in selling, general and administrative expenses (except for those discussed in Note M).

#### *Earnings Per Share*

Basic earnings per share is computed as net earnings divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share is computed as net earnings divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period plus common stock equivalents. Common stock equivalents consist of shares subject to stock-based awards with exercise prices less than or equal to the average market price of our common stock for the period, to the extent their inclusion would be dilutive.

#### *Income Taxes*

Income taxes are accounted for using the asset and liability method. Under this method, deferred income taxes arise from temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in our Consolidated Financial Statements. We record reserves for our estimates of the additional income tax liability that is more likely than not to result from the ultimate resolution of foreign and domestic tax examinations. At any one time, many tax years are subject to examination by various taxing jurisdictions. The results of these examinations and negotiations with taxing authorities may affect the ultimate settlement of these issues. We review and update the estimates used in the accrual for uncertain tax positions as more definitive information becomes available from taxing authorities, upon completion of tax examination, upon expiration of statutes of limitation, or upon occurrence of other events.

In order to compute the tax on an interim basis, we estimate what our effective tax rate will be for the full fiscal year and adjust these estimates throughout the year as necessary. Adjustments to our income tax provision due to changes in our estimated effective tax rate are recorded in the interim period in which the change occurs. The tax (or benefit) related to items other than ordinary income is individually computed and recognized when the items occur. Our effective tax rate in a given financial statement period may be materially impacted by changes in the mix and level of our earnings in various taxing jurisdictions.

#### *New Accounting Pronouncements*

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, to clarify the principles of recognizing revenue and

create common revenue recognition guidance between U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and International Financial Reporting Standards. This ASU is effective retrospectively for fiscal years and interim periods within those years beginning after December 15, 2016. We are currently assessing the potential impact of this ASU on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

## Note B: Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consists of the following:

<i>In thousands</i>	Feb. 1, 2015	Feb. 2, 2014
Leasehold improvements	\$ 852,372	\$ 847,351
Fixtures and equipment	691,001	698,275
Capitalized software	431,259	419,432
Land and buildings	192,841	188,498
Corporate systems projects in progress <sup>1</sup>	91,885	72,693
Construction in progress <sup>2</sup>	10,119	5,519
Total	2,269,477	2,231,768
Accumulated depreciation	(1,386,465)	(1,382,475)
Property and equipment, net	\$ 883,012	\$ 849,293

<sup>1</sup> Corporate systems projects in progress as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014 include approximately \$56.8 million and \$40.1 million, respectively, for the portion of our new inventory and order management system currently under development and not ready for its intended use.

<sup>2</sup> Construction in progress primarily consists of leasehold improvements and furniture and fixtures related to new, expanded or remodeled retail stores where construction had not been completed as of year-end.

## Note C: Borrowing Arrangements

Long-term debt consists of the following:

<i>In thousands</i>	Feb. 1, 2015	Feb. 2, 2014
Memphis-based distribution facility obligation (see Note F)	\$ 1,968	\$ 3,753
Less current maturities	(1,968)	(1,785)
Total long-term debt	\$ 0	\$ 1,968

### Credit Facility

We have a \$500,000,000 unsecured revolving line of credit (“credit facility”) that may be used to borrow revolving loans or request the issuance of letters of credit. We may, upon notice to the administrative agent, request existing or new lenders to increase the credit facility by up to \$250,000,000, at such lenders’ option, to provide for a total of \$750,000,000 of unsecured revolving credit. As of February 1, 2015, we were in compliance with our financial covenants under the credit facility and, based on current projections, we expect to remain in compliance throughout fiscal 2015. The credit facility matures on November 19, 2019, at which time all outstanding borrowings must be repaid and all outstanding letters of credit must be cash collateralized.

We may elect interest rates calculated at (i) Bank of America’s prime rate (or, if greater, the average rate on overnight federal funds plus one-half of one percent, or a rate based on LIBOR plus one percent) plus a margin based on our leverage ratio or (ii) LIBOR plus a margin based on our leverage ratio. During fiscal 2014, we had borrowings of \$90,000,000 under the credit facility, all of which were repaid in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2014, and no amounts were outstanding as of February 1, 2015. During fiscal 2013, we had no borrowings under the credit facility, and no amounts were outstanding as of February 2, 2014. Additionally, as of February 1, 2015, \$14,760,000 in issued but undrawn standby letters of credit was outstanding under the credit facility. The standby letters of credit were issued to secure the liabilities associated with workers’ compensation and other insurance programs.

### Letter of Credit Facilities

We have three unsecured letter of credit reimbursement facilities for a total of \$70,000,000, each of which matures on August 28, 2015. The letter of credit facilities contain covenants that are consistent with our unsecured revolving line of credit. Interest on unreimbursed amounts under the letter of credit facilities accrues at the lender's prime rate (or, if greater, the average rate on overnight federal funds plus one-half of one percent) plus 2.0%. As of February 1, 2015, an aggregate of \$9,651,000 was outstanding under the letter of credit facilities, which represents only a future commitment to fund inventory purchases to which we had not taken legal title. The latest expiration possible for any future letters of credit issued under the facilities is January 25, 2016.

### Note D: Income Taxes

The components of earnings before income taxes, by tax jurisdiction, are as follows:

<i>In thousands</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Ended</i>		
	Feb. 1, 2015 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 2, 2014 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 3, 2013 (53 Weeks)
United States	\$ 482,739	\$ 448,764	\$ 401,542
Foreign	19,464	3,918	8,414
<b>Total earnings before income taxes</b>	<b>\$ 502,203</b>	<b>\$ 452,682</b>	<b>\$ 409,956</b>

The provision for income taxes consists of the following:

<i>In thousands</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Ended</i>		
	Feb. 1, 2015 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 2, 2014 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 3, 2013 (53 Weeks)
<b>Current</b>			
Federal	\$ 157,227	\$ 173,686	\$ 136,742
State	31,959	25,748	22,072
Foreign	4,411	2,690	3,441
<b>Total current</b>	<b>193,597</b>	<b>202,124</b>	<b>162,255</b>
<b>Deferred</b>			
Federal	2,719	(26,324)	(7,827)
State	(2,547)	(1,277)	(1,202)
Foreign	(420)	(743)	(0)
<b>Total deferred</b>	<b>(248)</b>	<b>(28,344)</b>	<b>(9,029)</b>
<b>Total provision</b>	<b>\$ 193,349</b>	<b>\$ 173,780</b>	<b>\$ 153,226</b>

We have historically elected not to provide for U.S. income taxes with respect to the undistributed earnings of our foreign subsidiaries as we intended to utilize those earnings in our foreign operations for an indefinite period of time. As of February 1, 2015 the accumulated undistributed earnings of all foreign subsidiaries were approximately \$43,300,000 and are sufficient to support our anticipated future cash needs for our foreign operations. We currently intend to utilize those undistributed earnings for an indefinite period of time and will only repatriate such earnings when it is tax effective to do so. It is currently not practical to estimate the tax liability that might be payable if these foreign earnings were to be repatriated.

A reconciliation of income taxes at the federal statutory corporate rate to the effective rate is as follows:

	<i>Fiscal Year Ended</i>		
	Feb. 1, 2015 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 2, 2014 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 3, 2013 (53 Weeks)
Federal income taxes at the statutory rate	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
State income tax rate	4.0%	3.7%	3.3%
Other	(0.5%)	(0.3%)	(0.9%)
<b>Effective tax rate</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>38.4%</b>	<b>37.4%</b>

Significant components of our deferred tax accounts are as follows:

<i>In thousands</i>	Feb. 1, 2015	Feb. 2, 2014
Current:		
Compensation	\$ 15,968	\$ 14,378
Merchandise inventories	30,328	27,337
Accrued liabilities	28,866	26,461
Customer deposits	60,989	58,479
Prepaid catalog expenses	(12,753)	(12,576)
Other	7,220	7,407
<b>Total current</b>	<b>130,618</b>	<b>121,486</b>
Non-current:		
Depreciation	(9,888)	(4,216)
Deferred rent	18,925	17,500
Deferred lease incentives	(37,098)	(33,065)
Stock-based compensation	19,857	28,948
Executive deferral plan	5,437	5,699
Uncertainties	7,061	4,378
Valuation allowance	(1,568)	(1,048)
Other	1,539	(4,372)
<b>Total non-current</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>13,824</b>
<b>Total deferred tax assets, net</b>	<b>\$ 134,883</b>	<b>\$ 135,310</b>

The following table summarizes the activity related to our gross unrecognized tax benefits:

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2012 (53 Weeks)
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 10,765	\$ 8,990	\$ 10,023
Increases related to current year tax positions	3,093	3,351	2,188
Increases related to prior years' tax positions	2,007	328	936
Decreases related to prior years' tax positions	(138)	(42)	(171)
Settlements	(1,144)	(170)	(1,069)
Lapses in statute of limitations	(224)	(1,692)	(2,917)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 14,359</b>	<b>\$ 10,765</b>	<b>\$ 8,990</b>

As of February 1, 2015, we had \$14,359,000 of gross unrecognized tax benefits, of which \$9,602,000 would, if recognized, affect the effective tax rate.

We accrue interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in the provision for income taxes. As of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, our accruals for the payment of interest and penalties totaled \$2,412,000 and \$2,231,000, respectively, primarily related to interest.

Due to the potential resolution of state issues, it is reasonably possible that the balance of our gross unrecognized tax benefits could decrease within the next twelve months by a range of \$0 to \$1,900,000.

We file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various states and foreign jurisdictions. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had concluded examination of our U.S. federal income tax returns for years prior to fiscal 2011 without any significant adjustments. Substantially all material state, local and foreign income tax examinations have been concluded through fiscal 2004.

**Note E: Accounting for Leases***Operating Leases*

We lease store locations, distribution centers, customer care centers, corporate facilities and certain equipment for original terms ranging generally from 3 to 22 years. Certain leases contain renewal options for periods up to 20 years. The rental payment requirements in our store leases are typically structured as either: minimum rent; rent based on a percentage of store sales; minimum rent plus additional rent based on a percentage of store sales; or rent based on a percentage of store sales if a specified store sales threshold or contractual obligation of the landlord has not been met. Contingent rental payments, including rental payments that are based on a percentage of sales, cannot be predicted with certainty at the onset of the lease term. Accordingly, such contingent rental payments are recorded as incurred each period and are excluded from our calculation of deferred rent liability.

Total rental expense for all operating leases was as follows:

<i>In thousands</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Ended</i>		
	Feb. 1, 2015 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 2, 2014 (52 Weeks)	Feb. 3, 2013 (53 Weeks)
Rent expense	\$ 215,221	\$ 201,727	\$ 189,060
Contingent rent expense	32,699	34,608	35,634
Rent expense before deferred lease incentive income	247,920	236,335	224,694
Deferred lease incentive income	(24,420)	(25,385)	(26,694)
Less: sublease rental income	(560)	(536)	(535)
<b>Total rent expense<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 222,940</b>	<b>\$ 210,414</b>	<b>\$ 197,465</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes all other occupancy-related costs including depreciation, common area maintenance, utilities and property taxes.

The aggregate future minimum annual cash rental payments under non-cancelable operating leases (excluding the Memphis-based distribution facility consolidated by us, see Note F) in effect at February 1, 2015 were as follows:

<i>In thousands</i>	<i>Lease Commitments<sup>1,2</sup></i>
Fiscal 2015	\$ 237,975
Fiscal 2016	225,951
Fiscal 2017	198,483
Fiscal 2018	178,353
Fiscal 2019	158,431
Thereafter	595,132
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,594,325</b>

<sup>1</sup> Represents future projected cash payments and, therefore, is not necessarily representative of future expected rental expense.

<sup>2</sup> Projected cash payments include only those amounts that are fixed and determinable as of the reporting date. We currently pay rent for certain store locations based on a percentage of store sales. As future store sales cannot be predicted with certainty, projected payments for these locations are based on minimum rent, which is generally higher than rent based on a percentage of store sales. We incur other lease obligation expenses, such as common area maintenance and other executory costs, which are not fixed in nature and are thus not included in the future projected cash payments reflected above. In addition, projected cash payments do not include any benefit from deferred lease incentive income, which is reflected within "Total rent expense" above.

## Note F: Memphis-Based Distribution Facilities

Our Memphis-based distribution facilities include an operating lease entered into in July 1983 for a distribution facility in Memphis, Tennessee. The lessor is a general partnership (“Partnership 1”) comprised of the estate of W. Howard Lester (“Mr. Lester”), our former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, and the estate of James A. McMahan (“Mr. McMahan”), a former Director Emeritus and significant stockholder. Partnership 1 does not have operations separate from the leasing of this distribution facility and does not have lease agreements with any unrelated third parties. The terms of the lease automatically renewed until the bonds that financed the construction of the facility were fully repaid in December 2010, at which time we continued to rent the facility on a month-to-month basis. We subsequently agreed to lease the facilities from Partnership 1 through February 2014, at which time the lease was terminated and we vacated the facility. We made annual rental payments of approximately \$28,000 in fiscal 2014, and \$618,000 in both fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012.

Our other Memphis-based distribution facility includes an operating lease entered into in August 1990 for another distribution facility that is adjoined to the Partnership 1 facility in Memphis, Tennessee. The lessor is a general partnership (“Partnership 2”) comprised of the estate of Mr. Lester, the estate of Mr. McMahan and two unrelated parties. Partnership 2 does not have operations separate from the leasing of this distribution facility and does not have lease agreements with any unrelated third parties. The term of the lease automatically renews on an annual basis until the bonds that financed the construction of the facility are fully repaid in August 2015. As of February 1, 2015, \$1,968,000 was outstanding under the Partnership 2 bonds. We made annual rental payments of approximately \$2,432,000, \$2,448,000 and \$2,473,000 including applicable taxes, insurance and maintenance expenses in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively.

As of February 1, 2015, Partnership 2 qualifies as a variable interest entity and is consolidated by us due to its related party relationship and our obligation to renew the lease until the bonds are fully repaid. As such, as of February 1, 2015, our Consolidated Balance Sheet includes \$10,658,000 in assets (primarily buildings), \$1,968,000 in debt and \$8,690,000 in other long-term liabilities related to the consolidation of the Partnership 2 distribution facility.

## Note G: Earnings Per Share

The following is a reconciliation of net earnings and the number of shares used in the basic and diluted earnings per share computations:

<i>In thousands, except per share amounts</i>	Net Earnings	Weighted Average Shares	Earnings Per Share
<hr/>			
2014 (52 Weeks)			
Basic	\$ 308,854	93,634	\$3.30
Effect of dilutive stock-based awards		1,566	
Diluted	\$ 308,854	95,200	\$3.24
<hr/>			
2013 (52 Weeks)			
Basic	\$ 278,902	96,669	\$2.89
Effect of dilutive stock-based awards		2,096	
Diluted	\$ 278,902	98,765	\$2.82
<hr/>			
2012 (53 Weeks)			
Basic	\$ 256,730	99,266	\$2.59
Effect of dilutive stock-based awards		1,785	
Diluted	\$ 256,730	101,051	\$2.54

Stock-based awards of 21,000 and 1,313,000 were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2012, respectively, as their inclusion would be anti-dilutive. There were no stock-based awards excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2013.



## Note H: Stock-Based Compensation

### Equity Award Programs

Our Amended and Restated 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the “Plan”) provides for grants of incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options, stock-settled stock appreciation rights (collectively, “option awards”), restricted stock awards, restricted stock units (including those that are performance-based), deferred stock awards (collectively, “stock awards”) and dividend equivalents up to an aggregate of 25,760,000 shares. As of February 1, 2015, there were approximately 4,354,000 shares available for future grant. Awards may be granted under the Plan to officers, employees and non-employee members of the board of directors of the company (the “Board”) or any parent or subsidiary. Shares issued as a result of award exercises or releases are primarily funded with the issuance of new shares.

### Option Awards

Annual grants of option awards are limited to 1,000,000 shares on a per person basis and have a maximum term of seven years. The exercise price of these option awards is not less than 100% of the closing price of our stock on the day prior to the grant date. Option awards granted to employees generally vest over a period of four years for service-based awards. Certain option awards contain vesting acceleration clauses resulting from events including, but not limited to, retirement, merger or a similar corporate event.

### Stock Awards

Annual grants of stock awards are limited to 400,000 shares on a per person basis. Stock awards granted to employees generally vest evenly over a period of four years for service-based awards. Certain performance-based awards, which have variable payout conditions based on predetermined financial targets, vest three years from the date of grant. Certain stock awards and other agreements contain vesting acceleration clauses resulting from events including, but not limited to, retirement, merger or a similar corporate event. Stock awards granted to non-employee Board members generally vest in one year. Non-employee Board members automatically receive stock awards on the date of their initial election to the Board and annually thereafter on the date of the annual meeting of stockholders (so long as they continue to serve as a non-employee Board member).

### Stock-Based Compensation Expense

We measure and record stock-based compensation expense for all employee stock-based awards using a fair value based method. During fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, we recognized total stock-based compensation expense, as a component of selling, general and administrative expenses, of \$44,632,000, \$38,788,000 and \$31,042,000, respectively. As of February 1, 2015, there was \$52,317,000 of unrecognized stock-based compensation expense (net of estimated forfeitures), which we expect to recognize on a straight-line basis over a weighted average remaining service period of approximately two years. At each reporting period, all compensation expense attributable to vested awards has been fully recognized.

### Stock Options

The following table summarizes our stock option activity during fiscal 2014:

	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Contractual Term Remaining (Years)	Intrinsic Value <sup>1</sup>
Balance at February 2, 2014 (100% vested)	222,488	\$ 37.11		
Granted	0	0		
Exercised	(115,488)	35.30		
Cancelled	0	0		
Balance at February 1, 2015 (100% vested)	107,000	\$ 39.05	0.81	\$4,194,000

<sup>1</sup> Intrinsic value for outstanding and vested options is based on the excess of the market value of our common stock on the last business day of the fiscal year (or \$78.25) over the exercise price.

No stock options were granted in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 or fiscal 2012. The total intrinsic value of stock options exercised was \$3,564,000 for fiscal 2014, \$3,834,000 for fiscal 2013 and \$5,497,000 for fiscal 2012. Intrinsic value for options exercised is based on the excess of the market value over the exercise price on the date of exercise.

#### *Stock-Settled Stock Appreciation Rights*

A stock-settled stock appreciation right is an award that allows the recipient to receive common stock equal to the appreciation in the fair market value of our common stock between the grant date and the conversion date for the number of shares converted.

The following table summarizes our stock-settled stock appreciation right activity during fiscal 2014:

	Shares	Weighted Average Conversion Price <sup>1</sup>	Weighted Average Contractual Term Remaining (Years)	Intrinsic Value <sup>2</sup>
Balance at February 2, 2014	1,859,762	\$ 29.19		
Granted	0	0		
Converted into common stock	(674,338)	28.47		
Cancelled	(25,476)	40.19		
Balance at February 1, 2015	1,159,948	\$ 29.36	3.27	\$56,711,000
Vested at February 1, 2015	892,712	\$ 26.06	3.29	\$46,590,000
Vested plus expected to vest at February 1, 2015	1,086,001	\$ 28.62	3.27	\$53,903,000

<sup>1</sup> Conversion price is equal to the market value on the date of grant.

<sup>2</sup> Intrinsic value for outstanding and vested rights is based on the excess of the market value of our common stock on the last business day of the fiscal year (or \$78.25) over the conversion price.

No stock-settled stock appreciation rights were granted in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 or fiscal 2012. The total intrinsic value of awards converted to common stock was \$26,837,000 for fiscal 2014, \$18,046,000 for fiscal 2013 and \$31,569,000 for fiscal 2012. Intrinsic value for conversions is based on the excess of the market value over the conversion price on the date of conversion.

#### *Restricted Stock Units*

The following table summarizes our restricted stock unit activity during fiscal 2014:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Weighted Average Contractual Term Remaining (Years)	Intrinsic Value <sup>1</sup>
Balance at February 2, 2014	3,079,651	\$ 40.11		
Granted	965,217	63.18		
Released	(1,548,779)	35.12		
Cancelled	(182,612)	47.87		
Balance at February 1, 2015	2,313,477	\$ 52.47	2.52	\$181,030,000
Vested plus expected to vest at February 1, 2015	1,571,376	\$ 52.70	2.61	\$122,960,000

<sup>1</sup> Intrinsic value for outstanding and unvested restricted stock units is based on the market value of our common stock on the last business day of the fiscal year (or \$78.25).

The following table summarizes additional information about restricted stock units:

	Fiscal 2014	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2012
Weighted average grant date fair value per share of awards granted	\$ 63.18	\$ 53.59	\$ 37.94
Intrinsic value of awards released <sup>1</sup>	\$101,189,000	\$24,568,000	\$16,730,000

<sup>1</sup> *Intrinsic value for releases is based on the market value on the date of release.*

#### *Tax Effect*

We present tax benefits resulting from the settlement of stock-based awards as operating cash flows in our Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. Tax deductions in excess of the cumulative compensation cost recognized for stock-based awards settled are presented as a financing cash inflow and an operating cash outflow. During fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, net proceeds from the exercise of stock-based awards was \$4,077,000, \$6,614,000 and \$14,637,000, respectively, and the current tax benefit related to stock-based awards totaled \$52,798,000, \$17,940,000 and \$21,477,000, respectively.

#### **Note I: Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 401(k) Plan and Other Employee Benefits**

We have a defined contribution retirement plan, the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the “401(k) Plan”), which is intended to be qualified under Internal Revenue Code Sections 401(a), 401(k), 401(m) and 4975(e)(7). The 401(k) Plan permits eligible employees to make salary deferral contributions up to 75% of their eligible compensation each pay period (7% for highly-compensated employees). Employees designate the funds in which their contributions are invested. Each participant may choose to have his or her salary deferral contributions and earnings thereon invested in one or more investment funds, including our company stock fund.

Our matching contribution is equal to 50% of each participant’s salary deferral contribution, taking into account only those contributions that do not exceed 6% of the participant’s eligible pay for the pay period. Each participant’s matching contribution is earned on a semi-annual basis with respect to eligible salary deferrals for those employees that are employed with the company on June 30th or December 31st of the year in which the deferrals are made. Each associate must complete one year of service prior to receiving company matching contributions. For the first five years of the participant’s employment, all matching contributions vest at the rate of 20% per year of service, measuring service from the participant’s hire date. Thereafter, all matching contributions vest immediately. Our contributions to the plan were \$6,038,000, \$5,538,000 and \$5,517,000 in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively.

The 401(k) Plan consists of two parts: a profit sharing plan portion and a stock bonus plan/employee stock ownership plan (the “ESOP”). The ESOP portion is the portion that is invested in the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Stock Fund. The profit sharing and ESOP components of the 401(k) Plan are considered a single plan under Code section 414(l).

We also have a nonqualified executive deferred compensation plan that provides supplemental retirement income benefits for a select group of management. This plan permits eligible employees to make salary and bonus deferrals that are 100% vested. We have an unsecured obligation to pay in the future the value of the deferred compensation adjusted to reflect the performance, whether positive or negative, of selected investment measurement options chosen by each participant during the deferral period. As of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, \$14,446,000 and \$15,190,000, respectively, is included in other long-term obligations related to these deferred compensation liabilities. Additionally, we have purchased life insurance policies on certain participants to potentially offset these unsecured obligations. The cash surrender value of these policies was \$17,422,000 and \$16,652,000 as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, respectively, and is included in other assets, net.

#### **Note J: Commitments and Contingencies**

We are involved in lawsuits, claims and proceedings incident to the ordinary course of our business. These disputes, which are not currently material, are increasing in number as our business expands and our company grows larger. We review the need for any loss contingency reserves and establish reserves when, in the opinion

of management, it is probable that a matter would result in liability, and the amount of loss, if any, can be reasonably estimated. In view of the inherent difficulty of predicting the outcome of these matters, it may not be possible to determine whether any loss is probable or to reasonably estimate the amount of the loss until the case is close to resolution, in which case no reserve is established until that time. Any claims against us, whether meritorious or not, could be time consuming, result in costly litigation, require significant amounts of management time and result in the diversion of significant operational resources. The results of these lawsuits, claims and proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty. However, we believe that the ultimate resolution of these current matters will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

#### **Note K: Stock Repurchase Program and Dividends**

During fiscal 2014, we repurchased 3,331,557 shares of our common stock at an average cost of \$67.35 per share and a total cost of approximately \$224,377,000 under our current \$750,000,000 stock repurchase program. As of February 1, 2015, we held treasury stock of \$2,140,000 which represents the cost of shares available for issuance in certain foreign jurisdictions as a result of future stock-based award settlements.

During fiscal 2013, we repurchased 4,344,962 shares of our common stock at an average cost of \$55.07 per share and a total cost of approximately \$239,274,000. During fiscal 2012, we repurchased 3,962,034 shares of our common stock at an average cost of \$39.14 per share and a total cost of approximately \$155,080,000.

Stock repurchases under this program may be made through open market and privately negotiated transactions at times and in such amounts as management deems appropriate. The timing and actual number of shares repurchased will depend on a variety of factors including price, corporate and regulatory requirements, capital availability and other market conditions. This stock repurchase program does not have an expiration date and may be limited or terminated at any time without prior notice.

Total cash dividends declared in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, were approximately \$125,378,000, or \$1.32 per common share, \$121,688,000, or \$1.24 per common share and \$88,452,000, or \$0.88 per common share, respectively. In March 2015, we announced that our Board of Directors had authorized a 6% increase in our quarterly cash dividend, from \$0.33 to \$0.35 per common share, subject to capital availability. Our quarterly cash dividend may be limited or terminated at any time.

#### **Note L: Segment Reporting**

We have two reportable segments, e-commerce (formerly direct-to-customer) and retail. The e-commerce segment has the following merchandising strategies: Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, West Elm, PBteen, Williams-Sonoma Home, Rejuvenation and Mark and Graham, which sell our products through our e-commerce websites and direct-mail catalogs. Our e-commerce merchandising strategies are operating segments, which have been aggregated into one reportable segment, e-commerce. The retail segment has the following merchandising strategies: Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, West Elm and Rejuvenation, which sell our products through our retail stores. Our retail merchandising strategies are operating segments, which have been aggregated into one reportable segment, retail. Management's expectation is that the overall economic characteristics of each of our operating segments will be similar over time based on management's judgment that the operating segments have had similar historical economic characteristics and are expected to have similar long-term financial performance in the future.

These reportable segments are strategic business units that offer similar home-centered products. They are managed separately because the business units utilize two distinct distribution and marketing strategies. Based on management's best estimate, our operating segments include allocations of certain expenses, including advertising and employment costs, to the extent they have been determined to benefit both channels. These operating segments are aggregated at the channel level for reporting purposes due to the fact that our brands are interdependent for economies of scale and we do not maintain fully allocated income statements at the brand level. As a result, material financial decisions related to the brands are made at the channel level. Furthermore, it is not practicable for us to report revenue by product group.

We use operating income to evaluate segment profitability. Operating income is defined as earnings (loss) before net interest income or expense and income taxes. Unallocated costs before interest and income taxes include corporate employee-related costs, occupancy expenses (including depreciation expense), administrative costs and third party service costs, primarily in our corporate administrative and systems departments. Unallocated assets include corporate cash and cash equivalents, deferred income taxes, the net book value of corporate facilities and related information systems, and other corporate long-lived assets.

Income tax information by reportable segment has not been included as income taxes are calculated at a company-wide level and are not allocated to each reportable segment.

### Segment Information

<i>In thousands</i>	E-commerce	Retail	Unallocated	Total
<b>2014 (52 Weeks)</b>				
Net revenues <sup>1</sup>	\$ 2,370,694	\$ 2,328,025	\$ 0	\$ 4,698,719
Depreciation and amortization expense	32,116	80,154	50,003	162,273
Operating income	560,396	248,535	(306,666)	502,265
Assets <sup>2</sup>	600,503	1,028,293	701,481	2,330,277
Capital expenditures	41,633	97,247	65,920	204,800
<b>2013 (52 Weeks)</b>				
Net revenues <sup>1</sup>	\$ 2,115,022	\$ 2,272,867	\$ 0	\$ 4,387,889
Depreciation and amortization expense	25,588	78,423	45,784	149,795
Operating income	502,143	248,894	(298,939)	452,098
Assets <sup>2</sup>	517,086	975,994	843,654	2,336,734
Capital expenditures	38,195	89,331	66,427	193,953
<b>2012 (53 Weeks)</b>				
Net revenues <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1,869,386	\$ 2,173,484	\$ 0	\$ 4,042,870
Depreciation and amortization expense	23,164	72,994	38,295	134,453
Operating income	418,836	262,899	(272,572)	409,163
Assets <sup>2</sup>	397,285	939,672	850,722	2,187,679
Capital expenditures	30,585	86,776	88,043	205,404

<sup>1</sup> Includes net revenues of approximately \$235.8 million, \$215.5 million and \$166.6 million in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively, related to our foreign operations.

<sup>2</sup> Includes long-term assets of approximately \$58.3 million, \$61.4 million and \$42.6 million in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively, related to our foreign operations.

### Note M: Derivative Financial Instruments

We have retail and e-commerce businesses in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, and operations throughout Asia and Europe, which expose us to market risk associated with foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. Substantially all of our purchases and sales are denominated in U.S. dollars, which limits our exposure to this risk. While the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations was not significant to us in fiscal 2014, we have continued to see volatility in the exchange rates in the countries in which we do business. As we continue to expand globally, the foreign currency exchange risk related to the transactions of our foreign subsidiaries may increase. To mitigate this risk, we hedge a portion of our foreign currency exposure with foreign currency forward contracts in accordance with our risk management policies. We do not enter into such contracts for speculative purposes.

The assets or liabilities associated with the derivative instruments are measured at fair value and recorded in either other current assets or other current liabilities. As discussed below, the accounting for gains and losses resulting from changes in fair value depends on whether the derivative instrument is designated as a hedge and qualifies for hedge accounting in accordance with ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*.

### Cash Flow Hedges

We enter into foreign currency forward contracts designated as cash flow hedges for forecasted inventory purchases in U.S. dollars by our foreign subsidiaries. These hedges generally have terms of up to 12 months. All hedging relationships are formally documented, and the forward contracts are designed to mitigate foreign currency exchange risk on hedged transactions. We record the effective portion of changes in the fair value of our cash flow hedges in other comprehensive income (“OCI”) until the earlier of when the hedged forecasted inventory purchase occurs or the respective contract reaches maturity. Subsequently, as the inventory is sold to the customer, we reclassify amounts previously recorded in OCI to cost of goods sold. Changes in the fair value of the forward contract related to interest charges or “forward points” are excluded from the assessment and measurement of hedge effectiveness and are recorded immediately in other income (expense), net. Based on the rates in effect as of February 1, 2015, we expect to reclassify a net gain of approximately \$1,321,000 from OCI to cost of goods sold over the next 12 months.

We also enter into non-designated foreign currency forward contracts to reduce the exchange risk associated with our assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency. Any foreign exchange gains (losses) related to these contracts are recognized in other income (expense), net.

As of February 1, 2015, and February 2, 2014, we had foreign currency forward contracts outstanding (in U.S. dollars) as follows:

<i>In thousands</i>	Feb. 1, 2015	Feb. 2, 2014
Contracts to sell Canadian dollars and buy U.S. dollars		
Contracts designated as cash flow hedges	\$ 15,900	\$ 16,500
Contracts not designated as cash flow hedges <sup>1</sup>	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
Contracts to sell Australian dollars and buy U.S. dollars		
Contracts not designated as cash flow hedges	\$ 21,000	\$ 5,500

<sup>1</sup> These contracts are no longer designated as cash flow hedges as the related inventory purchases have occurred.

Hedge effectiveness is evaluated prospectively at inception, on an ongoing basis, as well as retrospectively using regression analysis. Any measureable ineffectiveness of the hedge is recorded in other income (expense), net. During fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2013, no gain or loss was recognized for cash flow hedges due to hedge ineffectiveness. All hedges were deemed effective for assessment purposes as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014.

The effect of derivative instruments in our Consolidated Financial Statements, pre tax, was as follows:

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)
Net gain recognized in OCI	\$ 1,153	\$ 870
Net gain reclassified from OCI into cost of goods sold	\$ 573	\$ 129
Net foreign exchange gain (loss) recognized in other income (expense):		
Instruments designated as cash flow hedges <sup>1</sup>	\$ (155)	\$ (109)
Instruments not designated or de-designated <sup>2</sup>	\$ (1,795)	\$ 906

<sup>1</sup> Changes in fair value of the forward contract related to interest charges or “forward points.”

<sup>2</sup> Changes in fair value subsequent to de-designation for instruments no longer designated as cash flow hedges, and changes in fair value related to instruments not designated as cash flow hedges.

The fair values of our derivative financial instruments are presented below. All fair values were measured using Level 2 inputs as defined by the fair value hierarchy described in Note N.

<i>In thousands</i>	Balance sheet location	Feb. 1, 2015	Feb. 2, 2014
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments:			
Cash flow hedge foreign currency forward contracts	Other current assets	\$ 1,015	\$ 485
Cash flow hedge foreign currency forward contracts	Other current liabilities	(9)	0
<b>Total, net</b>		<b>\$ 1,006</b>	<b>\$ 485</b>
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments:			
Foreign currency forward contracts	Other current assets	\$ 427	\$ 222
Foreign currency forward contracts	Other current liabilities	0	(40)
<b>Total, net</b>		<b>\$ 427</b>	<b>\$ 182</b>

We record all derivative assets and liabilities on a gross basis. They do not meet the balance sheet netting criteria as discussed in ASC 210, *Balance Sheet*, because we do not have master netting agreements established with our derivative counterparties that would allow for net settlement.

Amounts recorded within accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”) associated with our derivative instruments, pre-tax, were as follows:

<i>In thousands</i>	Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)	Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)
AOCI beginning balance amount of gain (loss)	\$ 741	\$ 0
Amounts recognized in OCI before reclassifications	1,153	870
Amounts reclassified from OCI into cost of goods sold	(573)	(129)
<b>AOCI ending balance amount of gain (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 1,321</b>	<b>\$ 741</b>

#### **Note N: Fair Value Measurements**

Fair value is the price that would be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

We determine the fair value of financial and non-financial assets and liabilities using the fair value hierarchy established by ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, which defines three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value, as follows:

- Level 1: inputs which include quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2: inputs which include observable inputs other than Level 1 inputs, such as quoted prices in active markets for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the asset or liability; and
- Level 3: inputs which include unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the underlying asset or liability.

The fair values of our cash and cash equivalents are based on Level 1 inputs, which include quoted prices in active markets for identical assets.

#### *Foreign Currency Derivatives and Hedging Instruments*

We use the income approach to value our derivatives using observable Level 2 market data at the measurement date and standard valuation techniques to convert future amounts to a single present value amount, assuming that participants are motivated but not compelled to transact. Level 2 inputs are limited to quoted prices that are

observable for the assets and liabilities, which include interest rates and credit risk ratings. We use mid-market pricing as a practical expedient for fair value measurements. Key inputs for currency derivatives are the spot rates, forward rates, interest rates and credit derivative market rates.

The counterparties associated with our foreign currency forward contracts are large credit-worthy financial institutions, and the derivatives transacted with these entities are relatively short in duration, therefore, we do not consider counterparty concentration and non-performance to be material risks at this time. Both we and our counterparties are expected to perform under the contractual terms of the instruments. None of the derivative contracts entered into are subject to credit risk-related contingent features or collateral requirements.

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 categories during fiscal 2014.



## **REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Williams-Sonoma, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income, stockholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended February 1, 2015. We also have audited the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of February 1, 2015, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company’s management is responsible for these consolidated financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying “Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.” Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company’s principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company’s board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. and subsidiaries as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended February 1, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of February 1, 2015, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Francisco, California  
April 2, 2015

**Quarterly Financial Information**  
(Unaudited)

*In thousands, except per share amounts*

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Full Year
<b>Fiscal 2014 (52 Weeks)</b>					
Net revenues	\$974,330	\$1,039,102	\$1,143,162	\$1,542,125	\$4,698,719
Gross profit	368,408	382,098	431,407	618,591	1,800,504
Operating income	74,326	85,336	104,720	237,883	502,265
Net earnings	46,162	50,747	64,908	147,037	308,854
Basic earnings per share <sup>1</sup>	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.70	\$ 1.60	\$ 3.30
Diluted earnings per share <sup>1</sup>	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.68	\$ 1.57	\$ 3.24
<b>Fiscal 2013 (52 Weeks)</b>					
Net revenues	\$887,808	\$ 982,209	\$1,051,548	\$1,466,324	\$4,387,889
Gross profit	334,185	368,924	405,388	595,719	1,704,216
Operating income	63,783	78,086	92,494	217,735	452,098
Net earnings	39,466	48,919	56,719	133,798	278,902
Basic earnings per share <sup>1</sup>	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.59	\$ 1.42	\$ 2.89
Diluted earnings per share <sup>1</sup>	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.58	\$ 1.38	\$ 2.82

<sup>1</sup> Due to differences between quarterly and full year weighted average share count calculations, and the effect of quarterly rounding to the nearest cent per share, full year earnings per share may not equal the sum of the quarters.

**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

**ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

***Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures***

As of February 1, 2015, an evaluation was performed by management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) and our Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”), of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, our management, including our CEO and CFO, concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information we are required to disclose in reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our CEO and CFO, as appropriate, to allow for timely discussions regarding required disclosures, and that such information is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC.

***Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over the company’s financial reporting. There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any internal control, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of controls. Accordingly, even effective internal control can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Further, because of changes in conditions, the effectiveness of any internal control may vary over time.

Our management assessed the effectiveness of the company’s internal control over financial reporting as of February 1, 2015. In making this assessment, we used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013)*. Based

on our assessment using those criteria, our management concluded that, as of February 1, 2015, our internal control over financial reporting is effective.

Our independent registered public accounting firm audited the Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Their audit report appears on pages 59 through 60 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

***Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

### **PART III**

#### **ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Information required by this Item is incorporated by reference herein to information under the headings “Election of Directors,” “Information Concerning Executive Officers,” “Audit and Finance Committee Report,” “Corporate Governance—Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics,” “Corporate Governance—Audit and Finance Committee” and “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in our Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

Information required by this Item is incorporated by reference herein to information under the headings “Corporate Governance—Compensation Committee,” “Corporate Governance—Director Compensation,” and “Executive Compensation” in our Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

Information required by this Item is incorporated by reference herein to information under the headings “Security Ownership of Principal Stockholders and Management” and “Equity Compensation Plan Information” in our Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

Information required by this Item is incorporated by reference herein to information under the heading “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” in our Proxy Statement.

#### **ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

Information required by this Item is incorporated by reference herein to information under the headings “Committee Reports—Audit and Finance Committee Report” and “Proposal 4—Ratification of Selection of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm—Deloitte Fees and Services” in our Proxy Statement.

## PART IV

### ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a)(1) Financial Statements:

The following Consolidated Financial Statements of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. and subsidiaries and the related notes are filed as part of this report pursuant to Item 7:

Consolidated Statements of Earnings for the fiscal years ended February 1, 2015, February 2, 2014 and February 3, 2013

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the fiscal years ended February 1, 2015, February 2, 2014 and February 3, 2013

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of February 1, 2015 and February 2, 2014

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the fiscal years ended February 1, 2015, February 2, 2014 and February 3, 2013

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the fiscal years ended February 1, 2015, February 2, 2014 and February 3, 2013

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Quarterly Financial Information

- (a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules: Schedules have been omitted because they are not required or because the required information, where material, is included in the financial statements, notes, or supplementary financial information.
- (a)(3) Exhibits: See Exhibit Index on pages 66 through 71.
- (b) Exhibits: See Exhibit Index on pages 66 through 71.
- (c) Financial Statement Schedules: Schedules have been omitted because they are not required or are not applicable.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

Date: April 2, 2015

By /s/ LAURA J. ALBER  
Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ ADRIAN D.P. BELLAMY  
Adrian D.P. Bellamy  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ LAURA J. ALBER  
Laura J. Alber  
Chief Executive Officer  
(principal executive officer)

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ JULIE P. WHALEN  
Julie P. Whalen  
Chief Financial Officer  
(principal financial officer and principal accounting officer)

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ ROSE MARIE BRAVO  
Rose Marie Bravo  
Director

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ PATRICK J. CONNOLLY  
Patrick J. Connolly  
Director

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ ADRIAN T. DILLON  
Adrian T. Dillon  
Director

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ ANTHONY A. GREENER  
Anthony A. Greener  
Director

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ TED W. HALL  
Ted W. Hall  
Director

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ MICHAEL R. LYNCH  
Michael R. Lynch  
Director

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ SABRINA SIMMONS  
Sabrina Simmons  
Director

Date: April 2, 2015 /s/ LORRAINE TWOHILL  
Lorraine Twohill  
Director

**EXHIBIT INDEX TO ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K  
FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 1, 2015**

<b>EXHIBIT NUMBER</b>	<b>EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS</b>	
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K as filed with the Commission on May 25, 2011, File No. 001-14077)
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K as filed with the Commission on May 25, 2011, File No. 001-14077)
<b>INSTRUMENTS DEFINING THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS, INCLUDING INDENTURES</b>	
4.1	Form of Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K as filed with the Commission on May 25, 2011, File No. 001-14077)
<b>FINANCING AGREEMENTS</b>	
10.1*	Sixth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated November 19, 2014, between the Company and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, letter of credit issuer and swingline lender, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as syndication agent, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., MUFG Union Bank, NA and U.S. Bank, National Association, as co-documentation agents, and the lenders party thereto
10.2	Reimbursement Agreement between the Company, Williams-Sonoma Singapore Pte. Ltd. and Bank of America, N.A., dated as of August 30, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended November 3, 2013 as filed with the Commission on December 12, 2013, File No. 001-14077)
10.3	First Amendment to Reimbursement Agreement between the Company, Williams-Sonoma Singapore Pte. Ltd. and Bank of America, N.A., dated as of August 29, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended November 2, 2014 as filed with the Commission on December 5, 2014, File No. 001-14077)
10.4	Reimbursement Agreement between the Company, Williams-Sonoma Singapore Pte. Ltd. and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated as of August 30, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended November 3, 2013 as filed with the Commission on December 12, 2013, File No. 001-14077)
10.5	First Amendment to Reimbursement Agreement between the Company, Williams-Sonoma Singapore Pte. Ltd. and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated as of August 29, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended November 2, 2014 as filed with the Commission on December 5, 2014, File No. 001-14077)
10.6	Reimbursement Agreement between the Company, Williams-Sonoma Singapore Pte. Ltd. and U.S. Bank National Association, dated as of August 30, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended November 3, 2013 as filed with the Commission on December 12, 2013, File No. 001-14077)



**EXHIBIT NUMBER****EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION**

10.7 First Amendment to Reimbursement Agreement between the Company, Williams-Sonoma Singapore Pte. Ltd. and U.S. Bank National Association, dated as of August 29, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended November 2, 2014 as filed with the Commission on December 5, 2014, File No. 001-14077)

**STOCK PLANS**

10.8+ Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2000 Nonqualified Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 as filed with the Commission on October 27, 2000, File No. 333-48750)

10.9+ Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit D to the Company's definitive proxy statement on Schedule A as filed on April 7, 2011, File No. 001-14077)

10.10+ Forms of Notice of Grant and Stock Option Agreement under the Company's 2000 Nonqualified Stock Option Plan and 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended October 31, 2004 as filed with the Commission on December 10, 2004, File No. 001-14077)

10.11+ Form of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan Stock-Settled Stock Appreciation Right Award Agreement for Director Grants (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2008 as filed with the Commission on April 3, 2008, File No. 001-14077)

10.12+ Form of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan Stock-Settled Stock Appreciation Right Award Agreement for Employee Grants (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on March 22, 2010, File No. 001-14077)

10.13+ Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan Stock-Settled Stock Appreciation Right Award Agreement for CEO Grant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2009 as filed with the Commission on April 2, 2009, File No. 001-14077)

10.14+ Form of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for Grants to Non-Employee Directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended May 4, 2014 as filed with the Commission on June 12, 2014, File No. 001-14077)

10.15+ Form of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for Grants to Employees (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended May 4, 2014 as filed with the Commission on June 12, 2014, File No. 001-14077)

10.16+ Form of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long Term Incentive Plan Performance Stock Unit Award Agreement for Grants to Employees (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2014 as filed with the Commission on April 3, 2014, File No. 001-14077)

**EXHIBIT NUMBER****EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION**

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**OTHER INCENTIVE PLANS**

- 10.17+ Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan, as amended (incorporated by reference to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A as filed with the Commission on April 6, 2012, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.18+ Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Pre-2005 Executive Deferral Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.40 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2009 as filed with the Commission on April 2, 2009, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.19+\* Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Amended and Restated Executive Deferred Compensation Plan
- 10.20+ Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 401(k) Plan, as amended and restated effective January 1, 2002, except as otherwise noted, and including amendments effective through August 1, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2008 as filed with the Commission on April 3, 2008, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.21+ Amendment to the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 401(k) Plan dated November 6, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.43 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2009 as filed with the Commission on April 2, 2009, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.22+ January 2009 Amendment to the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 401(k) Plan dated January 20, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.44 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2009 as filed with the Commission on April 2, 2009, File No. 001-14077)

**PROPERTIES**

- 10.23 Warehouse – Distribution Facility lease dated July 1, 1983, between the Company as lessee and the Lester-McMahan Partnership as lessor (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 1983 as filed with the Commission on October 14, 1983, File No. 000-12704)
- 10.24 First Amendment, dated December 1, 1985, to the Warehouse – Distribution Facility lease dated July 1, 1983, between the Company as lessee and the Lester-McMahan Partnership as lessor (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.48 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 1986 as filed with the Commission on May 2, 1986, File No. 000-12704)
- 10.25 Second Amendment, dated December 1, 1993, to the Warehouse – Distribution Facility lease dated July 1, 1983 between the Company as lessee and the Lester-McMahan Partnership as lessor (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 1994 as filed with the Commission on April 29, 1994, File No. 000-12704)
- 10.26 Sublease for the Distribution Facility at 4600 and 4650 Sonoma Cove, Memphis, Tennessee, dated as of August 1, 1990, by and between Hewson-Memphis Partners and the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended October 28, 1990 as filed with the Commission on December 12, 1990, File No. 000-12704)

**EXHIBIT NUMBER****EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION**

- 10.27 First Amendment, dated December 22, 1993, to Sublease for the Distribution Facility at 4600 and 4650 Sonoma Cove, Memphis, Tennessee between the Company and Hewson-Memphis Partners, dated as of August 1, 1990 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 28, 2001 as filed with the Commission on April 26, 2001, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.28 Second Amendment, dated September 1, 1994, to Sublease for the Distribution Facility at 4600 and 4650 Sonoma Cove, Memphis, Tennessee, dated as of August 1, 1990 between the Company and Hewson-Memphis Partners (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended October 30, 1994 as filed with the Commission on December 13, 1994, File No. 000-12704)
- 10.29 Third Amendment, dated October 24, 1995, to Sublease for the Distribution Facility at 4600 and 4650 Sonoma Cove, Memphis, Tennessee, dated as of August 1, 1990 between the Company and Hewson-Memphis Partners (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2E to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended October 29, 1995 as filed with the Commission on December 13, 1995, File No. 000-12704)
- 10.30 Fourth Amendment, dated February 1, 1996, to Sublease for the Distribution Facility at 4600 and 4650 Sonoma Cove, Memphis, Tennessee, dated as of August 1, 1990 between the Company and Hewson-Memphis Partners (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 28, 2001 as filed with the Commission on April 26, 2001, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.31 Fifth Amendment to Sublease, dated March 1, 1999, incorrectly titled Fourth Amendment to Sublease for the Distribution Facility at 4600 and 4650 Sonoma Cove, Memphis, Tennessee, dated as of August 1, 1990 between the Company and Hewson-Memphis Partners (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.43 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2002 as filed with the Commission on April 29, 2002, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.32 Memorandum of Understanding between the Company and the State of Mississippi, Mississippi Business Finance Corporation, Desoto County, Mississippi, the City of Olive Branch, Mississippi and Hewson Properties, Inc., dated August 24, 1998 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended August 2, 1998 as filed with the Commission on September 14, 1998, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.33 Olive Branch Distribution Facility Lease, dated December 1, 1998, between the Company as lessee and WSDC, LLC (the successor-in-interest to Hewson/Desoto Phase I, L.L.C.) as lessor (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3D to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 1999 as filed with the Commission on April 30, 1999, File No. 001-14077)
- 10.34 First Amendment, dated September 1, 1999, to the Olive Branch Distribution Facility Lease between the Company as lessee and WSDC, LLC (the successor-in-interest to Hewson/Desoto Phase I, L.L.C.) as lessor, dated December 1, 1998 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3B to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2000 as filed with the Commission on May 1, 2000, File No. 001-14077)

**EXHIBIT NUMBER****EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION**

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10.35 Lease for an additional Company distribution facility located in Olive Branch, Mississippi between Williams-Sonoma Retail Services, Inc. as lessee and SPI WS II, LLC (the successor-in-interest to Hewson/Desoto Partners, L.L.C.) as lessor, dated November 15, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2000 as filed with the Commission on May 1, 2000, File No. 001-14077)

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS**

10.36+ Amended and Restated Employment Agreement with Laura Alber, dated September 6, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended October 28, 2012 as filed with the Commission December 7, 2012, File No. 001-14077)

10.37+ Amended and Restated Management Retention Agreement with Laura Alber, dated September 6, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended October 28, 2012 as filed with the Commission December 7, 2012, File No. 001-14077)

10.38+ Form of Management Retention Agreement for Executive Vice Presidents and Brand Presidents, approved May 25, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K as filed with the Commission on June 1, 2010, File No. 001-14077)

10.39+ Form of Management Retention Agreement for Senior Vice Presidents, approved May 25, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.67 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2011 as filed with the Commission on March 31, 2011, File No. 001-14077)

10.40+ 2012 EVP Level Management Retention Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.63 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2013 as filed with the Commission on April 4, 2013, File No. 001-14077)

10.41+ Separation Agreement and General Release with Richard Harvey dated May 3, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended May 5, 2013 as filed with the Commission on June 14, 2013, File No. 001-14077)

10.42+ Employment Agreement with Janet Hayes, dated August 9, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.42 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2014 as filed with the Commission on April 3, 2014, File No. 001-14077)

**OTHER AGREEMENTS**

10.43+ Form of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Indemnification Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended July 31, 2011 as filed with the Commission on September 9, 2011, File No. 001-14077)

**OTHER EXHIBITS**

21.1\* Subsidiaries

23.1\* Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

**EXHIBIT NUMBER****EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION**

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**CERTIFICATIONS**

31.1*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act, as amended
31.2*	Certification of Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act, as amended
32.1*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2*	Certification of Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

**XBRL**

101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* Filed herewith.

+ Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

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NOTICE OF  
2015 ANNUAL  
MEETING OF  
STOCKHOLDERS  
—  
PROXY  
STATEMENT

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

POTTERY BARN POTTERY BARN KIDS PBTEEN WILLIAMS-SONOMA WILLIAMS-SONOMA HOME WEST ELM MARK AND GRAHAM REJUVENATION

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# WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

3250 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94109  
www.williams-sonomainc.com

## NOTICE OF 2015 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

- MEETING DATE: May 29, 2015
- TIME: 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time
- PLACE: Williams-Sonoma, Inc.  
3250 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94109
- ITEMS OF BUSINESS:
- 1) The election of our Board of Directors;
  - 2) The amendment and restatement of the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan to increase the shares issuable under the plan by 6,550,000 shares, extend the term of the plan to 2025, and approve the material terms of the plan so that we may continue to receive a federal income tax deduction for certain compensation paid under the plan;
  - 3) An advisory vote to approve executive compensation;
  - 4) The ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2016; and
  - 5) Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the meeting.
- RECORD DATE: You may vote if you were a stockholder of record as of the close of business on March 30, 2015.
- MEETING ADMISSION: You are entitled to attend the Annual Meeting only if you were a stockholder of record as of the close of business on March 30, 2015. **Photo identification and proof of ownership on the record date is required for admittance.** Proof of ownership can be a brokerage or account statement indicating ownership on March 30, 2015, the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, a proxy card, or a legal proxy or voting instruction card provided by your broker, bank or nominee.

By Order of the Board of Directors

David King  
Secretary  
April 9, 2015

### YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Instructions for submitting your proxy are provided in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, the Proxy Statement and your proxy card. It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the Annual Meeting. Please submit your proxy through the Internet, by telephone, or by completing the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to its exercise at the Annual Meeting.

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# WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

3250 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94109  
[www.williams-sonomainc.com](http://www.williams-sonomainc.com)

## PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Our Board of Directors is soliciting your proxy to vote your shares at our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be held on Friday, May 29, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time, and for any adjournment or postponement of the meeting. Our Annual Meeting will be held at our corporate headquarters located at 3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109.

Our Annual Report to Stockholders for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2015, or fiscal 2014, including our financial statements for fiscal 2014, is also included with this Proxy Statement and posted on our website at [www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors/annual-reports.html](http://www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors/annual-reports.html). The Annual Report, Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, and the Proxy Statement were first made available to stockholders and posted on our website on or about April 9, 2015.

#### What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

Stockholders will be asked to vote on the following matters:

- 1) The election of our Board of Directors;
- 2) The amendment and restatement of the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan to increase the shares issuable under the plan by 6,550,000 shares, extend the term of the plan to 2025, and approve the material terms of the plan so that we may continue to receive a federal income tax deduction for certain compensation paid under the plan;
- 3) An advisory vote to approve executive compensation;
- 3) The ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2016; and
- 4) Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the meeting, including stockholder proposals. At this time, we do not know of any other matters to be brought before the Annual Meeting.

#### What is the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials?

In accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials to all stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, we are furnishing the proxy materials to certain of our stockholders over the Internet. If you received a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, or the Notice, by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials. Instead, the Notice will instruct you as to how you may access and review the proxy materials and submit your vote on the Internet or by telephone. If you received a Notice by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of the proxy materials, please follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice.

On the date of mailing of the Notice, all stockholders will have the ability to access all of our proxy materials on a website referred to in the Notice. These proxy materials will be available free of charge.

**Can I receive future proxy materials by e-mail?**

Yes. You may choose to receive future proxy materials by e-mail by following the instructions provided on the website referred to in the Notice. Choosing to receive your future proxy materials by e-mail will save us the cost of printing and mailing documents to you and will reduce the impact of our Annual Meeting on the environment.

If you choose to receive future proxy materials by e-mail, you will receive an e-mail next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting site. Your election to receive proxy materials by e-mail will remain in effect until you terminate it.

**Who may vote?**

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 30, 2015, the record date, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each holder of our common stock will be entitled to one vote for each share of our common stock owned as of the record date. As of the record date, there were 91,642,370 shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote, and there were 360 stockholders of record, which number does not include beneficial owners of shares held in the name of a bank or brokerage firm. We do not have any outstanding shares of preferred stock.

**How do I vote?**

You may vote in person at the Annual Meeting, electronically by submitting your proxy through the Internet, by telephone or by returning a hard copy of the proxy card before the Annual Meeting. Proxies properly executed, returned to us on a timely basis and not revoked will be voted in accordance with the instructions contained in the proxy. If any matter not described in this Proxy Statement is properly presented for action at the meeting, the persons named in the enclosed proxy will have discretionary authority to vote according to their best judgment.

**How do I vote electronically or by telephone?**

You may vote by submitting your proxy through the Internet or by telephone. The Internet and telephone voting procedures are designed to authenticate your identity as a Williams-Sonoma, Inc. stockholder, to allow you to vote your shares and to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded. Specific instructions to be followed for voting on the Internet or by telephone are provided below in this Proxy Statement, in the Notice and on the proxy card.

*Shares Registered Directly in the Name of the Stockholder*

If your shares are registered directly in your name in our stock records maintained by our transfer agent, Wells Fargo Shareowner Services, then you may vote your shares:

- on the Internet at [www.proxypush.com/wsm](http://www.proxypush.com/wsm); or
- by calling Wells Fargo Shareowner Services from within the United States at 866-883-3382.

Proxies for shares registered directly in your name that are submitted on the Internet or by telephone must be received before noon Pacific Time on Thursday, May 28, 2015.

*Shares Registered in the Name of a Brokerage Firm or Bank*

If your shares are held in an account at a brokerage firm or bank, you should follow the voting instructions on the Notice or the proxy card provided by your brokerage firm or bank.

**Can I vote my shares by filling out and returning the Notice?**

No. The Notice identifies the items to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, but you cannot vote by marking the Notice and returning it. The Notice provides instructions on how to vote on the Internet or by telephone and how to request paper copies of the proxy materials.

### **What if I return my proxy card directly to the company, but do not provide voting instructions?**

If a signed proxy card is returned to us without any indication of how your shares should be voted, votes will be cast “FOR” the election of the directors named in this Proxy Statement, “FOR” the amendment and restatement of our 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan, “FOR” the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our Named Executive Officers, and “FOR” the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2016.

### **May I attend the Annual Meeting?**

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 30, 2015, the record date, are entitled to attend the Annual Meeting. Stockholders planning to attend the Annual Meeting must present photo identification and proof of ownership on the record date in order to be admitted. Proof of ownership can be a brokerage or account statement indicating ownership on March 30, 2015, the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, a proxy card, or a legal proxy or voting instruction card provided by your broker, bank or nominee. We reserve the right to deny admittance to anyone who cannot adequately show proof of share ownership as of the record date.

### **What are the directions to attend the Annual Meeting?**

The following are directions to attend the Annual Meeting from various locations around the San Francisco Bay Area:

#### *From the South Bay*

Take US-101 Northbound toward San Francisco  
Take the US-101 exit on the left  
Keep left at the fork to continue on US-101 North  
Take exit 434A to merge onto Mission Street/US-101  
Turn left at US-101/South Van Ness Avenue  
Continue North on Van Ness Avenue  
Destination will be on the right

#### *From the East Bay*

Take I-80 Westbound across the Bay Bridge toward San Francisco  
Take exit 1B to merge onto US-101 North  
Take exit 434A to merge onto Mission Street/US-101  
Turn left at US-101/South Van Ness Avenue  
Continue North on Van Ness Avenue  
Destination will be on the right

#### *From the North Bay*

Take US-101 Southbound across the Golden Gate Bridge toward San Francisco  
Exit onto Richardson Avenue/US-101 toward Lombard Street  
Continue to follow US-101  
Turn left at US-101/Van Ness Avenue  
Continue North on Van Ness Avenue  
Destination will be on the right

### **How many shares must be present to transact business at the Annual Meeting?**

Stockholders holding a majority of our outstanding shares as of the record date must be present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting so that we may transact business. This is known as a quorum. Shares that are voted in person, on the Internet, by telephone or by signed proxy card, and abstentions and broker non-votes, will be included in the calculation of the number of shares considered to be present for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum at the Annual Meeting.

**What is a broker non-vote?**

The term broker non-vote refers to shares that are held of record by a broker for the benefit of the broker's clients but that are not voted at the Annual Meeting by the broker on certain non-routine matters set forth in New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, Rule 402.08(B) because the broker did not receive instructions from the broker's clients on how to vote the shares and, therefore, was prohibited from voting the shares.

**How many votes are needed to elect directors?**

Pursuant to a majority voting bylaw adopted by our Board of Directors and further described in our Amended and Restated Bylaws, the election of each of the nine director nominees requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting with respect to each nominee. The number of shares voted "for" a director nominee must exceed the number of votes cast "against" that nominee for the nominee to be elected as a director to serve until the next annual meeting or until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified. Your proxy will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If no instructions are given, the proxy holders will vote "FOR" each of the director nominees. If you hold your shares through a brokerage, bank or other nominee, or in "street name," it is important to cast your vote if you want it to count in the election of directors. If you hold your shares in street name and you do not instruct your bank or broker how to vote your shares in the election of directors, no votes will be cast on your behalf. Broker non-votes and abstentions will have no effect on the outcome of the election.

Pursuant to the resignation policy adopted by our Board of Directors and further described in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, any nominee for director who is not elected shall promptly tender his or her resignation to our Board of Directors following certification of the stockholder vote. The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee will consider the resignation offer and recommend to our Board of Directors the action to be taken with respect to the offered resignation. In determining its recommendation, the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee shall consider all factors it deems relevant. Our Board of Directors will act on the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee's recommendation within 90 days following certification of the stockholder vote and will publicly disclose its decision with respect to the director's resignation offer (and the reasons for rejecting the resignation offer, if applicable).

Any director who tenders his or her resignation pursuant to the resignation policy shall not participate in the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee's recommendation or Board of Directors action regarding whether to accept the resignation offer. If each member of the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee is required to tender his or her resignation pursuant to the resignation policy in the same election, then the independent directors of our Board of Directors who are not required to tender a resignation pursuant to the resignation policy shall consider the resignation offers and make a recommendation to our Board of Directors.

To the extent that one or more directors' resignations are accepted by our Board of Directors, our Board of Directors in its discretion may determine either to fill such vacancy or vacancies or to reduce the size of the Board within the authorized range.

**How many votes are needed to approve Proposals 2, 3 and 4?**

Proposals 2, 3 and 4 require the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of voting power entitled to vote thereon, present in person or represented by proxy, at the Annual Meeting. Proxy cards marked "abstain" will have the effect of a "NO" vote and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

The outcome of Proposal 3, the advisory vote on the approval of the compensation of our Named Executive Officers, will not be binding on us or the Board. However, the Board and the Compensation Committee will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation.



**Are there any stockholder proposals this year?**

No stockholder proposals are included in this Proxy Statement, and we have not received notice of any stockholder proposals to be raised at this year's Annual Meeting.

**What if I want to change my vote(s)?**

You may revoke your proxy prior to the close of voting at the Annual Meeting by any of the following methods:

- sending written notice of revocation to our Secretary;
- sending a signed proxy card bearing a later date;
- voting by telephone or on the Internet at a later date; or
- attending the Annual Meeting, revoking your proxy and voting in person.

**What is householding?**

Householding is a cost-cutting procedure used by us and approved by the SEC to limit duplicate copies of our proxy materials being printed and delivered to stockholders sharing a household. Under the householding procedure, we send only one Notice or Annual Report and Proxy Statement to stockholders of record who share the same address and last name, unless one of those stockholders notifies us that the stockholder would like a separate Notice or Annual Report and Proxy Statement. A separate proxy card is included in the materials for each stockholder of record. A stockholder may notify us that the stockholder would like a separate Notice or Annual Report and Proxy Statement by phone at 415-421-7900 or by mail at the following mailing address: Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Attention: Annual Report Administrator, 3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109. If we receive such notification that the stockholder wishes to receive a separate Notice or Annual Report and Proxy Statement, we will promptly deliver such Notice or Annual Report and Proxy Statement. If you wish to update your participation in householding, you may contact your broker or our mailing agent, Broadridge Investor Communications Solutions, at 800-542-1061.

**What if I received more than one proxy card?**

If you received more than one proxy card, it means that you have multiple accounts with brokers and/or our transfer agent. You must complete each proxy card in order to ensure that all shares beneficially held by you are represented at the meeting. If you are interested in consolidating your accounts, you may contact your broker or our transfer agent, Wells Fargo Shareowner Services, at 800-468-9716.

**Who pays the expenses incurred in connection with the solicitation of proxies?**

We pay all of the expenses incurred in preparing, assembling and mailing the Notice or this Proxy Statement and the materials enclosed. We have retained Skinner & Company to assist in the solicitation of proxies at an estimated cost to us of \$5,000. Some of our officers or employees may solicit proxies personally or by telephone or other means. None of those officers or employees will receive special compensation for such services.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### **Director Independence**

Our Board of Directors has determined that Adrian D.P. Bellamy, Rose Marie Bravo, Adrian T. Dillon, Anthony A. Greener, Ted W. Hall, Sabrina Simmons and Lorraine Twohill meet the independence requirements of our “Policy Regarding Director Independence Determinations”, which is part of our Corporate Governance Guidelines. Accordingly, the Board has determined that none of these director nominees has a material relationship with us and that each of these nominees is independent within the meaning of the NYSE and SEC director independence standards, as currently in effect. Further, each member of our Board committees satisfies the independence requirements of the NYSE and SEC, and any heightened independence standards applicable to each committee on which they serve. The Board’s independence determination was based on information provided by our director nominees and discussions among our officers and directors.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

We currently separate the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. Adrian D.P. Bellamy, an independent director, has served as our Chairman of the Board since May 2010. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that in the event that the Chairman of the Board is not an independent director, the Board shall elect a Lead Independent Director. As Mr. Bellamy is an independent director, we have not appointed a separate Lead Independent Director.

Separating the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board maximizes the Board’s independence and aligns our leadership structure with current trends in corporate governance best practices. Our Chief Executive Officer is responsible for day-to-day leadership and for setting the strategic direction of the company, while the Chairman of the Board provides independent oversight and advice to our management team, and presides over Board meetings.

### **Risk Oversight**

#### ***Board Oversight of Risk***

The Board actively manages the company’s risk oversight process and receives regular reports from management on areas of material risk to the company, including operational, financial, legal and regulatory risks. Our Board committees assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in certain areas of risk. The Audit and Finance Committee assists the Board with its oversight of the company’s major financial risk exposures. Additionally, in accordance with NYSE requirements, the Audit and Finance Committee reviews with management the company’s major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the company’s risk assessment and risk management policies. The Compensation Committee assists the Board with its oversight of risks arising from our compensation policies and programs and assesses on an annual basis potential material risk to the company from its compensation policies and programs, including incentive and commission plans at all levels. The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee assists the Board with its oversight of risks associated with Board organization, Board independence, succession planning, and corporate governance. While each committee is responsible for evaluating certain risks and overseeing the management of such risks, the entire Board is regularly informed through committee reports about such risks.

#### ***Evaluation of Risks Relating to Compensation Programs***

Our Compensation Committee is responsible for monitoring our compensation policies and programs relative to all our employees, including non-executive officers, for potential risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our company. In performing its duties, the Compensation Committee regularly reviews and discusses potential risks that could arise from our employee compensation plans and programs with our management and the Compensation Committee’s independent compensation consultant. The Compensation Committee is responsible for reporting to the Board any material risks associated with our compensation plans and programs, including recommended actions to mitigate such risks.

For fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee retained an independent consultant, Frederic W. Cook & Co., or Cook & Co., to identify and assess the risk inherent in the company's compensation programs and policies. Accordingly, Cook & Co. evaluated the company's executive and non-executive compensation programs for such risk and the mechanisms in our programs designed to mitigate these risks. Among other things, Cook & Co. reviewed our pay philosophy, forms of incentives, performance metrics, balance of cash and equity compensation, balance of long-term and short-term incentive periods, compensation governance practices, and equity grant administration practices. Based on the assessment, Cook & Co. concluded that our compensation programs and policies do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our company.

### **Board Meetings and Executive Sessions**

During fiscal 2014, our Board held a total of seven meetings. Each director who was a member of our Board during fiscal 2014 attended at least 75% of the aggregate of (i) the total number of meetings of the Board held during the period for which such director served as a director and (ii) the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board on which such director served during the periods that such director served.

It is the Board's policy to have a separate meeting time for independent directors, typically during the regularly scheduled Board meetings. During fiscal 2014, executive sessions were led by our Chairman of the Board, Mr. Bellamy.

### **Attendance of Directors at Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

It is our policy that directors who are nominated for election at our Annual Meeting should attend the Annual Meeting. All directors who were nominated for election at our 2014 Annual Meeting attended the meeting.

### **Board Committees**

Our Board has three standing committees: the Audit and Finance Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee. Each committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board. The committee charters are each available on the company's website at [www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors](http://www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors) and are also available in print to any stockholder upon request.

The following table sets forth the members of each committee as of March 30, 2015, the functions of each committee, and the number of meetings held during fiscal 2014.

<u>Committee and Members</u>	<u>Functions of Committee</u>	<u>Number of Meetings in Fiscal 2014</u>
<p><b>Audit and Finance:</b>            Adrian T. Dillon, Chairman            Ted W. Hall            Michael R. Lynch            Sabrina Simmons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists our Board in its oversight of the integrity of our financial statements; the qualifications, independence, retention and compensation of our independent registered public accounting firm; the performance of our internal audit function; and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;</li> <li>• Prepares the report that the SEC rules require to be included in our annual proxy statement;</li> <li>• Reviews the financial impact of selected strategic initiatives, and reviews and recommends for Board approval selected financing, dividend and stock repurchase policies and plans; and</li> <li>• Assists the Board with its oversight of our major financial risk exposures, and reviews with management such exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.</li> </ul>	<p>10</p>
<p><b>Compensation:</b>            Adrian D.P. Bellamy, Chairman            Rose Marie Bravo            Anthony A. Greener            Lorraine Twohill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews and determines our executive officers' compensation;</li> <li>• Reviews and determines our general compensation goals and guidelines for our employees;</li> <li>• Administers certain of our compensation plans and provides assistance and recommendations with respect to other compensation plans;</li> <li>• Reviews the compensation discussion and analysis report that the SEC rules require to be included in our annual proxy statement;</li> <li>• Assists the Board with its oversight of risk arising from our compensation policies and programs, and assesses on an annual basis potential material risk from our compensation policies and programs; and</li> <li>• Appoints, sets the compensation of, and determines independence of any compensation consultant or other advisor retained.</li> </ul>	<p>6</p>
<p><b>Nominations and Corporate Governance:</b>            Michael R. Lynch, Chairman            Adrian D.P. Bellamy            Anthony A. Greener            Lorraine Twohill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews and recommends corporate governance policies;</li> <li>• Identifies and makes recommendations for nominees for director and considers criteria for selecting director candidates;</li> <li>• Considers stockholders' director nominations and proposals;</li> <li>• Reviews and determines our compensation policy for our non-employee directors;</li> <li>• Considers resignation offers of director nominees and recommends to the Board the action to be taken with respect to each such offered resignation; and</li> <li>• Oversees the evaluation of our Board and our senior management team.</li> </ul>	<p>4</p>

### ***Audit and Finance Committee***

The Board has determined that each member of the Audit and Finance Committee is independent under the NYSE rules, as currently in effect, and Rule 10A-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Board has determined that Mr. Dillon, who serves as Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee, and Ms. Simmons are each a “financial expert” under the SEC rules. The Board has also determined that each Audit and Finance Committee member is “financially literate,” as described in the NYSE rules.

### ***Compensation Committee***

The Board has determined that each member of the Compensation Committee is independent under the NYSE rules, as currently in effect, is an outside director as such term is defined with respect to Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code and is a non-employee director under Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. None of the Compensation Committee members have ever served as an officer of the Company.

### ***Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation***

Mr. Bellamy, Ms. Bravo, Mr. Greener, Mr. Hall and Ms. Twohill served as members of the Compensation Committee during fiscal 2014. During fiscal 2014, none of our executive officers served as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving as a member of our Board or Compensation Committee.

### ***Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee***

The Board has determined that each member of the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee is independent under the NYSE rules currently in effect. Each member of the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee is a non-employee director.

During fiscal 2014, in furtherance of the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee’s functions, the Committee took the following actions, among other things:

- Evaluated the composition of the Board, and considered desired skill sets, qualities and experience for potential future Board members, as well as potential candidates;
- Evaluated the composition of the committees of the Board;
- Considered and recommended to the Board the submission to stockholders of the director nominees described in the company’s 2014 Proxy Statement;
- Managed the annual Board self-assessment process; and
- Reviewed compensation for the Board of Directors.

### ***Director Nominations***

The Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee’s criteria and process for evaluating and identifying the candidates that it selects, or recommends to the Board for selection, as director nominees are as follows:

- The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee periodically reviews the current composition and size of the Board;
- The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee manages the annual self-assessment of the Board as a whole and considers the performance and qualifications of individual members of the Board when recommending individuals for election or re-election to the Board;
- The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee reviews the qualifications of any candidates who have been properly recommended by stockholders, as well as those candidates who have been identified by management, individual members of the Board or, if it deems appropriate, a search firm. Such review

may, in the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee's discretion, include a review solely of information provided to it or also may include discussions with persons familiar with the candidate, an interview with the candidate or other actions that the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee deems appropriate;

- In evaluating the qualifications of candidates for the Board, the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee considers many factors, including issues of character, judgment, independence, financial expertise, industry experience, range of experience, and other commitments. The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee values diversity, but does not assign any particular weight or priority to any particular factor. The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee considers each individual candidate in the context of the current perceived needs of the Board as a whole. While the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee has not established specific minimum qualifications for director candidates, it believes that candidates and nominees must be suitable for a Board that is composed of directors (i) a majority of whom are independent; (ii) who are of high integrity; (iii) who have qualifications that will increase the overall effectiveness of the Board; and (iv) who meet the requirements of all applicable rules, such as financial literacy or financial expertise with respect to Audit and Finance Committee members;
- In evaluating and identifying candidates, the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee has the sole authority to retain and terminate any third party search firm that is used to identify director candidates and the sole authority to approve the fees and retention terms of any search firm;
- After such review and consideration, the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee recommends to the Board the slate of director nominees; and
- The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee endeavors to notify, or cause to be notified, all director candidates of the decision as to whether to nominate individuals for election to the Board.

There are no differences in the manner in which the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee evaluates nominees for director based on whether the nominee is recommended by a stockholder, management or a search firm.

#### *Stockholder Recommendations*

The Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee will consider suggestions from stockholders regarding possible director candidates for election at next year's Annual Meeting. Pursuant to our Stockholder Recommendations Policy, the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee considers recommendations for candidates to the Board from stockholders holding no fewer than 500 shares of the company's common stock continuously for at least six months prior to the date of the submission of the recommendation.

A stockholder that desires to recommend a candidate for election to the Board shall direct the recommendation in writing to Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109. The recommendation must include: (i) the candidate's name, home and business contact information; (ii) detailed biographical data and qualifications of the candidate; (iii) information regarding any relationships between the candidate and the company within the last three years; (iv) evidence of the recommending person's ownership of company common stock; (v) a statement from the recommending stockholder in support of the candidate; and (vi) a written indication by the candidate of his or her willingness to serve if elected. A stockholder that desires to recommend a person directly for election to the Board at the company's Annual Meeting must also meet the deadlines and other requirements set forth in Rule 14a-8 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the company's Restated Bylaws, each of which are described in the "Stockholder Proposals" section of this Proxy Statement.

Each director nominated in this Proxy Statement was recommended for election to the Board by the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee. The Board did not receive any notice of a director nominee recommendation from any stockholder in connection with this Proxy Statement.

## Director Compensation

For fiscal 2014, non-employee directors received cash compensation and equity grants for their service on our Board and the Board committees of which they are a member, as set forth in the table below. During fiscal 2014, the equity grants were made in the form of restricted stock units. These restricted stock units vest on the earlier of one year from the date of grant or the day before the next regularly scheduled annual meeting. The number of restricted stock units granted was determined by dividing the total monetary value of each award, equal to the equity grant as identified in the following table, by the closing price of our common stock on the trading day prior to the grant date, rounding down to the nearest whole share. Directors also received dividend equivalent payments with respect to outstanding restricted stock unit awards.

	<u>Value of Annual Compensation</u>
Annual Cash Compensation for Board Service(1)(2) .....	\$ 66,000
Annual Equity Grant for Board Service(1)(3)(4) .....	\$154,000
Annual Cash Compensation to Chairman of the Board(2) .....	\$200,000
Annual Equity Grant to Chairman of the Board(3) .....	\$200,000
Annual Cash Compensation to Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee(2) ..	\$ 25,500
Annual Equity Grant to Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee(3) .....	\$ 25,500
Annual Cash Compensation to Chairman of the Compensation Committee(2) .....	\$ 12,500
Annual Equity Grant to Chairman of the Compensation Committee(3) .....	\$ 12,500
Annual Cash Compensation to Chairman of the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee(2) .....	\$ 8,250
Annual Equity Grant to Chairman of the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee(3) .....	\$ 8,250

- (1) Effective May 29, 2014, the Board of Directors approved an increase from \$185,000 to \$220,000 in total annual compensation, 70% of which is in the form of an equity grant and 30% of which is in cash.
- (2) The annual cash compensation is paid in quarterly installments so long as the non-employee director continues to serve on the Board at the time of such payments.
- (3) The annual equity grant is awarded on the date of the Annual Meeting.
- (4) Directors who are appointed to the Board after the Company's last Annual Meeting receive an equity grant on the appointment date on a prorated basis based on the number of days that the director is scheduled to serve between the appointment date to the Board and the date one year from the prior year's Annual Meeting.

In addition to the compensation described above, non-employee directors received cash attendance compensation in the amount of \$2,000 for each committee meeting they attended for committees of which they are a member. Directors also received reimbursement for travel expenses related to attending our Board, committee or business meetings. Non-employee directors and their spouses receive discounts on our merchandise.

***Non-Employee Director Summary Compensation Table***

The following table shows the compensation provided to our non-employee directors during fiscal 2014.

	<u>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)</u>	<u>Stock Awards \$(1)</u>	<u>All Other Compensation (\$)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Adrian D.P. Bellamy .....	\$309,517	\$366,500(2)	\$34,813(3)	\$710,830
Rose Marie Bravo .....	\$ 91,017	\$153,997(4)	\$ 5,550(5)	\$250,564
Mary Ann Casati .....	\$ 60,417	\$ —	\$10,337(6)	\$ 70,754
Adrian T. Dillon .....	\$124,517	\$179,470(7)	\$17,061(8)	\$321,048
Anthony A. Greener .....	\$ 97,017	\$153,997(4)	\$ 2,763(9)	\$253,777
Ted W. Hall .....	\$ 95,017	\$153,997(4)	\$ 5,340(10)	\$254,354
Michael R. Lynch .....	\$115,267	\$162,238(11)	\$ 3,644(12)	\$281,149
Sabrina Simmons .....	\$ 723	\$ 51,011(13)	\$ —	\$ 51,734
Lorraine Twohill .....	\$ 95,017	\$153,997(4)	\$13,846(14)	\$262,860

- (1) Based on the fair market value of the award granted in fiscal 2014, which is calculated by multiplying the closing price of our common stock on the trading day prior to the grant date by the number of units granted. The number of restricted stock units granted is determined by dividing the total monetary value of each annual equity grant as identified in the preceding table, by the closing price of our common stock on the trading day prior to the grant date, rounding down to the nearest whole share.
- (2) Represents the fair market value associated with a restricted stock unit award of 5,381 shares of common stock made on May 29, 2014, with a fair value as of the grant date of \$68.11 per share for an aggregate grant date fair value of \$366,500.
- (3) Includes (i) taxable value of discount on merchandise of \$27,687 and (ii) dividend equivalent payments made with respect to outstanding stock unit awards of \$7,126.
- (4) Represents the fair market value associated with a restricted stock unit award of 2,261 shares of common stock made on May 29, 2014, with a fair value as of the grant date of \$68.11 per share for an aggregate grant date fair value of \$153,997.
- (5) Includes (i) taxable value of discount on merchandise of \$1,857 and (ii) dividend equivalent payments made with respect to an outstanding restricted stock unit award of \$3,693.
- (6) Includes (i) taxable value of discount on merchandise of \$9,253 and (ii) dividend equivalent payments made with respect to an outstanding restricted stock unit award of \$1,084.
- (7) Represents the fair market value associated with a restricted stock unit award of 2,635 shares of common stock made on May 29, 2014, with a fair value as of the grant date of \$68.11 per share for an aggregate grant date fair value of \$179,470.
- (8) Includes (i) taxable value of discount on merchandise of \$13,939 and (ii) dividend equivalent payments made with respect to an outstanding restricted stock unit award of \$3,122.
- (9) Includes (i) taxable value of discount on merchandise of \$187 and (ii) dividend equivalent payments made with respect to an outstanding restricted stock unit award of \$2,576.
- (10) Includes (i) taxable value of discount on merchandise of \$2,764 and (ii) dividend equivalent payments made with respect to outstanding restricted stock unit awards of \$2,576.
- (11) Represents the fair market value associated with a restricted stock unit award of 2,382 shares of common stock made on May 29, 2014, with a fair value as of the grant date of \$68.11 per share for an aggregate grant date fair value of \$162,238.
- (12) Includes (i) taxable value of discount on merchandise of \$892 and (ii) dividend equivalent payments made with respect to outstanding restricted stock unit awards of \$2,752.



- (13) Represents the fair market value associated with a restricted stock unit award of 641 shares of common stock made on January 28, 2015, with a fair value as of the grant date of \$79.58 per share for an aggregate grant date fair value of \$51,011.
- (14) Includes (i) taxable value of discount on merchandise of \$11,270 and (ii) dividend equivalent payments made with respect to outstanding restricted stock unit awards of \$2,576.

### **Director Stock Ownership Policy**

The Board has approved a stock ownership policy. Each non-employee director must hold at least \$400,000 worth of shares of company stock by the fifth anniversary of such director's initial election to the Board. If a director holds at least \$400,000 worth of shares of company stock during the required time period, but the value of such director's shares decreases below \$400,000 due to a drop in the company's stock price, the director shall be deemed to have complied with this policy so long as the director does not sell shares of company stock. If a director has not complied with this policy during the required time period, then the director may not sell any shares until such director holds at least \$400,000 worth of shares of company stock. All of our directors meet the ownership requirements or have been on the board for less than five years.

### **Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines and our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, both of which apply to all of our employees, including our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Controller, are available on our website at [www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors](http://www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors). Copies of our Corporate Governance Guidelines and our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics are also available upon written request and without charge to any stockholder by writing to: Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109. To date, there have been no waivers that apply to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Controller or persons performing similar functions under our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. We intend to disclose any amendment to, or waivers of, the provisions of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that affect our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Controller or persons performing similar functions by posting such information on our website at [www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors](http://www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors).

### **Communicating with Members of the Board**

Stockholders and all other interested parties may send written communications to the Board or to any of our directors individually, including non-management directors and the Chairman of the Board, at the following address: Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109. All communications will be compiled by our Corporate Secretary and submitted to the Board or an individual director, as appropriate, on a periodic basis.

**PROPOSAL 1**  
**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Upon the recommendation of our Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee, our Board has nominated for reelection the persons set forth in the tables below. Our Board has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unwilling or unable to serve as a director. However, should a nominee become unwilling or unable to serve prior to the Annual Meeting, our Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee would recommend another person or persons to be nominated by our Board to stand for election, and your proxies would be voted for the person or persons selected by the committee and nominated by our Board.

There are no family or special relationships between any director nominee or executive officer and any other director nominee or executive officer. There are no arrangements or understandings between any director nominee or executive officer and any other person pursuant to which he or she has been or will be selected as our director and/or executive officer.

**Information Regarding the Director Nominees**

The following table sets forth information, as of March 30, 2015, with respect to each director nominee. We have also included information about each nominee’s specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led the Board to conclude that he or she should serve as a director of the company, in light of our business and structure, at the time we file this Proxy Statement. Each director nominee furnished the biographical information set forth in the table.

**Executive Officers:**

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Director Since</u>	<u>Position with the Company and Business Experience, including Directorships Held During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Specific Experience, Qualifications, Attributes and Skills</u>
Laura J. Alber . . . . . Age 46	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Executive Officer since 2010</li> <li>• President since 2006</li> <li>• President, Pottery Barn Brands, 2002 – 2006</li> <li>• Executive Vice President, Pottery Barn, 2000 – 2002</li> <li>• Senior Vice President, Pottery Barn Catalog and Pottery Barn Kids Retail, 1999 – 2000</li> <li>• Director, RealD Inc. (3D technologies) since 2013</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive retail industry, merchandising and operational experience, including 20 years of experience with the company</li> <li>• Implemented successful growth strategies, including Pottery Barn Kids, Pottery Barn Bed + Bath and PBteen, as well as the company’s global expansion</li> </ul>
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . . Age 68	1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer, since 2014</li> <li>• Executive Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer, 2000 – 2014</li> <li>• Executive Vice President, General Manager, Catalog, 1995 – 2000</li> <li>• Director, CafePress.com (customized and personalized products) since 2007</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive marketing experience, including 36 years of experience with the company</li> <li>• Directed the company’s direct-to-customer strategy, including the growth of its catalog business and the development and expansion of its e-commerce channel</li> </ul>

**Independent Directors:**

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Director Since</u>	<u>Position with the Company and Business Experience, including Directorships Held During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Specific Experience, Qualifications, Attributes and Skills</u>
Adrian D.P. Bellamy . . . . . Age 73	1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman of the Board</li> <li>• Chairman of the Compensation Committee and member of the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee</li> <li>• Chairman and Director, Reckitt Benckiser plc (household, personal, health and food products) since 2003</li> <li>• Chairman, Total Wine and More (liquor retailer) since 2011</li> <li>• Chairman and Director, Action Holding B.V. (non-food discount retailer) since 2013</li> <li>• Director, The Gap, Inc. (clothing), 1995 – 2014</li> <li>• Chairman and Director, The Body Shop International plc (personal care products), 2002 – 2008</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive experience as both an executive and director in the retail industry, including 12 years as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DFS Group Ltd.</li> <li>• Broad perspective of the retail industry from current and past positions on the Boards of other retailers including The Gap, The Body Shop and Gucci</li> </ul>
Rose Marie Bravo CBE . . . . . Age 64	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Compensation Committee</li> <li>• Vice Chairman, Burberry Group plc (apparel and accessories), 2006 – 2007</li> <li>• Chief Executive Officer, Burberry Group plc, 1997 – 2006</li> <li>• President, Saks Fifth Avenue (specialty department store), 1992 – 1997</li> <li>• Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of I. Magnin, a former division of R.H. Macy &amp; Co. (specialty department store), 1987 – 1992</li> <li>• Director, Tiffany &amp; Co. (jewelry) since 1997</li> <li>• Director, The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. (beauty products) since 2003</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive knowledge of the retail industry, with over 30 years of experience as an executive and over 17 years of experience as a public company director</li> <li>• Strong understanding of global brand management, merchandising, marketing and product development</li> </ul>

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Director Since</u>	<u>Position with the Company and Business Experience, including Directorships Held During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Specific Experience, Qualifications, Attributes and Skills</u>
Adrian T. Dillon . . . . . Age 61	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee</li> <li>• Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Skype Limited (video and voice communications software), 2010 – 2011</li> <li>• Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration, and Chief Financial Officer, Agilent Technologies, Inc. (technology testing and analysis solutions), 2001 – 2010</li> <li>• Chairman, WNS (Holdings) Limited (outsourcing services) since 2014, Vice Chairman 2013 – 2014, Director since 2012</li> <li>• Director, Wonga, Inc. (digital finance), since 2013</li> <li>• Director, NDS Group Ltd. (pay television software), 2011 – 2012</li> <li>• Director, Verigy Ltd. (semiconductors), 2006 – 2007</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive financial and accounting expertise as chief financial officer of two large public companies</li> <li>• Deep understanding of accounting principles and financial reporting rules and regulations, including how internal controls are effectively managed within organizations</li> </ul>
Anthony A. Greener . . . . . Age 74	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Compensation Committee and the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee</li> <li>• Chairman, The Minton Trust (charity) since 2006</li> <li>• Director, WNS (Holdings) Limited (outsourcing services) since 2007</li> <li>• Chairman, The St. Giles Trust (charity) since 2008</li> <li>• Trustee, United Learning (education) since 2013</li> <li>• Director, The United Church Schools Trust (education), 2005 – 2013</li> <li>• Chairman, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (education), 2002 – 2008</li> <li>• Deputy Chairman, British Telecommunications plc (telecommunications), 2000 – 2006</li> <li>• Chairman, Diageo plc (spirits, beer and wine), 1997 – 2000</li> <li>• Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Guinness plc (beer and spirits), 1992 – 1997</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive experience as both an executive and director of companies with global brands</li> <li>• Strong leadership skills with a variety of diverse businesses and organizations, including specialty retailers</li> </ul>

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Director Since</u>	<u>Position with the Company and Business Experience, including Directorships Held During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Specific Experience, Qualifications, Attributes and Skills</u>
Ted W. Hall . . . . . Age 66	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Audit and Finance Committee</li> <li>• CEO &amp; President, Long Meadow Ranch &amp; Affiliates (food and wine) since 1994</li> <li>• Managing Director, Mayacamas Associates (consulting) since 2000</li> <li>• Director, Basic American Inc. (specialty foods) since 2010</li> <li>• Director, Dolby Laboratories, Inc. (entertainment products), 2007 –2013</li> <li>• Director, Peet’s Coffee &amp; Tea, Inc. (coffee, tea and related products), 2008 – 2012</li> <li>• Chairman, Tambourine, Inc. (specialty music production and distribution), 1998 – 2007</li> <li>• Non-Executive Chairman of the Board, Robert Mondavi Corporation (wine), 2003 – 2005</li> <li>• Various leadership roles, McKinsey &amp; Company (consulting), 1972 – 2000</li> <li>• Member of Shareholder Committee (McKinsey’s board of directors), McKinsey &amp; Company, 1988 – 2000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive operating and consulting experience, as well as experience as a director at companies in the retail, food, consumer product and technology industries</li> <li>• Strong insight into the specialty food industry through his leadership of Long Meadow Ranch</li> </ul>
Sabrina Simmons . . . . . Age 51	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Audit and Finance Committee</li> <li>• Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, The Gap, Inc. (clothing), since 2008</li> <li>• Executive Vice President, Corporate Finance, 2007-2008, Senior Vice President, Corporate Finance and Treasurer, 2003-2007, Vice President and Treasurer, 2001-2003, The Gap, Inc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive financial and accounting expertise as chief financial officer of a large public company</li> <li>• Extensive experience as an executive in the retail industry, including 14 years at The Gap, Inc.</li> </ul>
Lorraine Twohill . . . . . Age 43	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Compensation Committee and the Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee</li> <li>• Head of Global Marketing, Google Inc. (Internet search, advertising) since 2009</li> <li>• Head of Marketing Europe, Middle East and Africa, Google Inc. 2003 – 2009</li> <li>• Director, Telegraph Media Group (newspapers) since 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive marketing knowledge, with over 20 years of experience, and strong experience in digital and social media</li> <li>• Strong insight into brand management and global issues</li> </ul>

**Required Vote for This Proposal**

The election of each director nominee requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting with respect to each nominee. The number of shares voted “for” a director nominee must exceed the number of votes cast “against” that nominee for the nominee to be elected as a director to serve until the next annual meeting or until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE “FOR” THE ELECTION OF ALL OF THE DIRECTORS LISTED ABOVE.**

**Director Emeritus**

In 2003, we initiated our Director Emeritus program for directors who have, in the opinion of the Board, provided long and meritorious service as members of the Board. Individuals who accept appointment to the position of Director Emeritus agree to provide advisory and consulting services on such business matters as the Board may determine. By standing invitation from the Board, these individuals may attend meetings of the Board, but do not vote on Board matters.

The following table sets forth information, as of March 30, 2015, with respect to our Director Emeritus.

<u>Director Emeritus</u>	<u>Director Emeritus Since</u>	<u>Positions with the Company and Business Experience</u>
Charles E. Williams . . . . . Age 99	2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Director, 1973 – 2003</li><li>• Vice Chairman, 1986 – 2003</li><li>• Founder</li></ul>

## PROPOSAL 2

### AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF OUR 2001 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN

This is a proposal to approve the amendment and restatement of the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan, or Incentive Plan, to increase the shares issuable under the plan by 6,550,000 shares and extend the term of the plan to 2025. We are also seeking stockholder approval of the material terms of the Incentive Plan for purposes of complying with the stockholder approval provisions of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, or Section 162(m).

If stockholders approve amending and restating the Incentive Plan, the amended and restated Incentive Plan will replace the current version of the Incentive Plan.

#### Changes Being Made to the Current Plan

The amended and restated Incentive Plan will increase the number of authorized shares of our common stock available for grant by 6,550,000 shares. If the amended and restated Incentive Plan is approved, it may remain in effect until March 25, 2025, unless sooner terminated by our Board or further extended. The increase in shares will help us to continue to achieve our goal of attracting, retaining and motivating our talented employees. We are also seeking stockholder approval of the material terms of the Incentive Plan for purposes of complying with the stockholder approval provisions of Section 162(m).

Pursuant to Section 162(m), the company generally may not deduct for federal income tax purposes compensation paid to our Chief Executive Officer or our three other highest paid employees (other than our principal financial officer) to the extent such compensation exceeds \$1,000,000 per person in any single year. However, if the compensation qualifies as “performance-based” for Section 162(m) purposes, the company may deduct for federal income tax purposes the compensation paid even if such compensation exceeds such limit. For certain awards granted under the Incentive Plan to qualify as “performance-based” compensation under Section 162(m), among other things, our stockholders must approve the material terms of the amended and restated Incentive Plan at the 2015 Annual Meeting. A favorable vote for this proposal will allow us the opportunity to continue to deduct certain executive compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 and provide us with potentially significant future tax benefits and associated cash flows.

In addition, the following material changes are being made to the Incentive Plan:

- Dividends and dividend equivalents payable with respect to awards subject to outstanding performance conditions will be held in escrow, subject to the achievement of the performance conditions. Stock options and stock appreciation rights will not include the right to dividends, dividend equivalents or other similar distribution rights.
- An annual limit on grants to non-employee directors has been added.
- Awards are subject to recoupment as required by applicable law or any recoupment policy adopted by the company from time to time.
- Dividend equivalents may now be payable in cash or stock as determined by the committee.
- The maximum number of shares underlying grants of restricted stock, restricted stock unit and deferred stock awards in the aggregate during any calendar year has been increased from 400,000 to 1,000,000.

#### Shares Available for Issuance under the Amended and Restated Incentive Plan

The amended and restated Incentive Plan will increase the number of shares reserved for issuance by 6,550,000 shares. In addition to this increase, and as currently permitted under the current plan as a result of prior stockholder approval in 2011 and 2006, the number of authorized shares of our common stock available for issuance will continue to also include 754,160 shares subject to options under our 1993 Stock Option Plan and

our 2000 Nonqualified Stock Option Plan that expired unexercised after March 15, 2006. If this proposal is approved, then a total of 32,309,903 shares will have been authorized for grant under the amended and restated Incentive Plan since its inception. As of March 30, 2015, before the addition of shares pursuant to this proposal, 3,411,226 reserved shares were subject to outstanding awards and 4,379,565 reserved shares remained available for future grant. The 1993 Stock Option Plan and the 2000 Nonqualified Stock Option Plan are no longer used to grant awards. On March 30, 2015, the closing price of a share of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$79.11.

To the extent permitted by stock exchange regulations, awards granted or shares issued by the company in assumption of, or in substitution or exchange for, prior awards or obligations of any company acquired by or combined with the company or a subsidiary shall not be added to or reduce the maximum limit on shares reserved for issuance under the Incentive Plan. In the event that a company acquired by or combined with the company or a subsidiary has shares available under a pre-existing plan approved by stockholders that was not adopted in contemplation of the acquisition or combination, to the extent permitted by stock exchange regulations, the shares available for grant under that pre-existing plan (as adjusted to reflect the acquisition or combination) may be used for awards under the Incentive Plan, and shall not reduce or be added back to the number of authorized shares under the Incentive Plan. However, awards using such shares that are available under any such pre-existing plan (1) shall not be made after the date awards or grants could have been made under the terms of the pre-existing plan, absent the acquisition or combination, and (2) shall only be made to individuals who were not eligible for awards under the Incentive Plan prior to the acquisition or combination.

#### **Board Approval of the Amended and Restated Incentive Plan**

On March 25, 2015, our Board approved the amended and restated Incentive Plan, subject to approval from our stockholders at the 2015 Annual Meeting. Our named executive officers and directors have an interest in this proposal because they are eligible to receive plan awards.

#### **Summary of the Amended and Restated Incentive Plan**

The following provides a summary of the principal features of the amended and restated Incentive Plan and its operation. This summary is qualified in its entirety by the Amended and Restated 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan attached as Exhibit A.

#### ***Types of Awards are Available under the Incentive Plan***

We may grant the following types of incentive awards under the Incentive Plan: (i) stock options; (ii) restricted stock; (iii) restricted stock units; (iv) stock appreciation rights that are settled in shares; (v) dividend equivalents; and (vi) deferred stock awards.

#### ***Plan Administration***

A committee of at least two non-employee members of our Board administers the Incentive Plan (the “committee”). To the extent the company wishes to qualify grants as exempt from the short-swing transaction liability provisions of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act, as amended (relating to purchases and sales of our stock within less than six months), the members of the committee must qualify as “non-employee directors.” Further, to make grants to our officers or directors, the members of the committee must qualify as “independent directors” under the applicable requirements and criteria of the New York Stock Exchange. Members of the committee must also qualify as “outside directors” under Section 162(m) to the extent the company wishes to potentially receive a federal tax deduction for certain compensation paid under the plan to our Chief Executive Officer and the next three highest paid employees (other than our principal financial officer). The committee has delegated its authority under the plan to two members of the Board, but only with respect to grants to certain of our employees who are not “officers” for purposes of Section 16.



***Powers of the Committee***

Subject to the terms of the plan and among other powers, the committee has the sole discretion to: (i) select the employees and non-employee directors who will receive awards; (ii) determine the terms and conditions of awards such as the exercise price and vesting schedule (see below for certain limitations); and (iii) interpret the provisions of the plan and outstanding awards. Subject to limited exceptions, the committee may not reduce the exercise price of stock options or stock appreciation rights that have been granted, including cancelling an existing stock option or stock appreciation right having an exercise price that exceeds the fair market value of the underlying stock in exchange for a new award (including a stock option or stock appreciation right), cash, other consideration, or a combination thereof, without prior consent from our stockholders.

***Eligibility to Receive Awards***

The committee selects the employees and non-employee directors who will be granted awards under the plan (our non-employee directors receive awards under the plan as compensation for Board service). The actual number of employees and non-employee directors who will receive an award under the plan cannot be determined in advance because the committee has the discretion to select the participants. As of March 30, 2015, approximately 24,000 employees and eight non-employee directors were eligible to participate in the plan. However, of our employees, our current policy is to grant equity awards generally to employees at the level of director or above, as well as to certain company buyers. As of March 30, 2015, there were 678 such employees.

***Limits on the Committee’s Ability to Vest and Accelerate Awards***

The committee generally has the sole discretion to determine and/or modify the vesting provisions of each award. However, awards of restricted stock, restricted stock units and deferred stock awards (together, these are called “full value awards”) typically are subject to certain “minimum vesting requirements” under the plan. The minimum vesting requirements generally require that grants of full value awards will vest in full no earlier than three years from the award grant date if the award will vest based solely on continued service to us, and no earlier than one year from the award grant date if the award will not vest based solely on continued service to us (or, for awards granted to non-employee directors, the earlier of one year from the date of grant or the day before the next regularly scheduled annual meeting).

Certain “Vesting Exceptions” to the minimum vesting requirements apply, however:

- The committee may grant full value awards resulting in the issuance of shares of up to 5% of the maximum aggregate number of shares of stock authorized for issuance under the plan (the “5% Limit”) to employees or non-employee directors without respect to the minimum vesting requirements in the plan. Also, awards so granted to non-employee directors pursuant to a formula approved by the Board do not count toward the 5% Limit and are not subject to the minimum vesting requirements.
- In addition, the committee’s ability to discretionarily accelerate the vesting of full value awards, and the vesting in full of options and stock appreciation rights, is subject to the 5% Limit, except that the committee may discretionarily accelerate awards without regard to the 5% Limit: (i) in connection with a merger or similar transaction under the plan (including an additional or subsequent event, such as termination following such a transaction); (ii) a participant’s death or disability; or (iii) a participant’s retirement. The committee may accelerate the vesting of full value awards such that the minimum vesting requirements still must be met, without such vesting acceleration counting toward the 5% Limit.
- The 5% Limit is considered one aggregate limit applying to the granting of full value awards to employees or non-employee directors without respect to the plan’s minimum vesting requirements and to the discretionary vesting acceleration of awards.

***Award Eligibility for Non-Employee Directors***

Non-employee directors are eligible for any of the awards available under the plan. In addition, our non-employee directors will receive annual awards under the non-employee director award program portion of the

plan in connection with their service on our Board. The plan provides that such annual awards may be of any type available under the plan as determined by the committee. The aggregate grant date fair value of all awards granted to any non-employee director during a calendar year (excluding awards made at the election of a non-employee director in lieu of all or a portion of annual and committee cash retainers) shall not exceed \$500,000.

Pursuant to the non-employee director award program portion of the plan and by subsequent Board resolution, each new non-employee director will receive such awards as the committee determines, upon his or her election to the Board and annually thereafter on the date of our Annual Meeting. It is expected that in fiscal 2015, these awards will consist of restricted stock units. Subject to the terms of the plan, the committee determines the other terms and conditions applicable to the awards. Please see “Director Compensation” on page 11 for a description of awards granted to our non-employee directors for fiscal 2014 and the automatic grants expected for fiscal 2015.

### *Stock Options*

A stock option is the right to acquire shares of our common stock at a fixed exercise price for a fixed period of time. Under the plan, the committee may grant nonqualified stock options and incentive stock options. Our practice has been to grant nonqualified stock options under the plan. The committee will determine the number of shares covered by each option, but the committee may not grant more than an aggregate of 1,000,000 shares covered by options or stock appreciation rights to any one person during any calendar year. The shares available for issuance under the plan will be reduced by one share for every share subject to an option granted under the plan, and if the award expires or becomes unexercisable without having been exercised in full, the reserve of shares available for future awards will be replenished by one share for every one share subject to the expired or forfeited portion of the award.

### *Exercise Price of an Option*

The exercise price of the shares subject to each option is set by the committee, but cannot be less than 100% of the fair market value on the date of grant of the shares covered by the option. The fair market value of shares covered by an option is calculated as the closing price of our stock on the trading day prior to the grant date. With respect to an incentive stock option granted to a stockholder who holds more than 10% of the combined voting power of all classes of stock of the company or any parent or subsidiary, the exercise price cannot be less than 110% of the fair market value on the date of grant. Notwithstanding the above, the exercise price of the shares subject to an option may be less than the minimum exercise price set forth above if the stock option is granted as a substitute award in connection with a merger or acquisition, but only to the extent such exercise price does not result in taxation under Section 409A, the loss of incentive stock option status or violate applicable law.

### *Option Exercises*

An option granted under the plan generally cannot be exercised until it vests. The committee establishes the vesting schedule of each option at the time of grant. Options granted under the amended and restated plan expire at the times established by the committee, but not later than seven years after the grant date (and not later than five years after the grant date in the case of an incentive stock option granted to an optionee who is a stockholder who holds more than 10% of the combined voting power of all classes of stock of the company or any parent or subsidiary). Except as the committee may otherwise provide, stock options generally may be exercised, to the extent vested, at any time prior to the earlier of the expiration date of the option or 90 days from the date the optionee ceases to provide services to us for any reason other than death or disability. If the optionee ceases to provide services to us as a result of his or her death or disability, or the optionee dies within 30 days after the optionee ceases to be an employee, the option generally may be exercised, to the extent vested, at any time prior to the earlier of the expiration date of the option or 180 days from the optionee’s death or date of termination as a result of disability.

### *Payment for the Exercise Price of an Option*

The exercise price of each option granted under the plan may be paid by any of the methods included in a participant’s option agreement. Such methods may include payment by (i) cash, (ii) certified or bank check,

(iii) through the tender of shares that are already owned by the participant, (iv) through a cashless exercise, or (v) through a net exercise. The participant must pay any taxes we are required to withhold at the time of exercise. If permitted by the committee, such taxes may be paid through the withholding of shares issued as a result of an award's exercise.

### ***Restricted Stock***

Restricted stock awards are shares of our common stock granted to participants subject to vesting in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the committee. Awards of restricted stock may be granted at no cost to the participant. The committee will determine the number of shares of restricted stock granted to any participant, but no participant may be granted more than an aggregate of 1,000,000 shares covered by awards of restricted stock, restricted stock units or deferred stock awards during any calendar year.

### ***Restricted Stock Vesting***

Vesting of restricted stock awards may be based on the achievement of performance goals established by the committee and/or on continued service to us. The shares available for issuance under the plan will be reduced by one and nine-tenths shares for every one share issued subject to a restricted stock award that is granted with a purchase or exercise price of less than 100% of fair market value on or after May 23, 2006, and if such an award is forfeited, canceled or otherwise terminated without vesting, the reserve of shares available for future awards will be replenished by one and nine-tenths shares for every one share subject to the forfeited, canceled or terminated portion of the award.

The committee determines the vesting schedule of restricted stock awards, subject to the minimum vesting requirements and the permitted Vesting Exceptions described above. Subject to these requirements, the committee generally has the authority to accelerate the vesting of any award.

### ***Restricted Stock Units***

Restricted stock units are essentially the same as awards of restricted stock, except that instead of the shares being issued immediately and then being subject to forfeiture or repurchase until vested, the shares or other payments for the award are not actually issued unless and until the award vests. Awards of restricted stock units may be granted at no cost to the participant, as determined by the committee in its discretion. The committee will determine the number of restricted stock units granted to any participant, but no participant may be granted more than an aggregate of 1,000,000 shares covered by awards of restricted stock units, restricted stock or deferred stock awards during any calendar year. Upon the grant of an award of restricted stock units, the recipient will receive an award agreement that specifies the terms and conditions of the award, including the number of restricted stock units granted and the terms, conditions and restrictions related to the award.

### ***Restricted Stock Unit Vesting***

Vesting of restricted stock unit awards may be based on the achievement of performance goals established by the committee and/or on continued service to us. The shares available for issuance under the plan will be reduced by one and nine-tenths shares for every one share issued subject to a restricted stock unit award that is granted with a purchase or exercise price of less than 100% of fair market value on or after May 23, 2006, and if such an award is forfeited, canceled or otherwise terminated without vesting, the reserve of shares available for future awards will be replenished by one and nine-tenths shares for every one share subject to the forfeited, canceled or terminated portion of the award.

The committee determines the vesting schedule of restricted stock unit awards, subject to the minimum vesting requirements and the permitted Vesting Exceptions described above. Subject to these requirements, the committee generally has the authority to accelerate the vesting of any award.

### ***Stock-Settled Stock Appreciation Rights***

A stock-settled stock appreciation right is an award that allows the recipient to receive the appreciation in fair market value between the date of the grant and the exercise date for the number of shares as to which the right is exercised, which is payable only in shares of our common stock. Thus, a stock appreciation right will have value only if the shares increase in value after the date of grant. The increased appreciation will be paid with shares of our common stock of equivalent value. The committee determines the terms of the stock appreciation right, including when the right becomes exercisable. The same expiration rules that apply to options generally also apply to stock appreciation rights. The committee will determine the number of shares covered by each stock appreciation right, but the committee may not grant more than an aggregate of 1,000,000 shares covered by stock appreciation rights or options to any one person during any calendar year. The shares available for issuance under the plan will be reduced by one share for every share subject to a stock appreciation right granted under the plan, regardless of the number of shares used to settle the award upon exercise, and if the award expires or becomes unexercisable without having been exercised in full, the reserve of shares available for future awards will be replenished by one share for every one share subject to the expired or forfeited portion of the award.

A stock appreciation right granted under the plan generally cannot be exercised until it vests. The committee establishes the vesting schedule of each stock appreciation right at the time of grant. Stock appreciation rights granted under the amended and restated Incentive Plan expire at the times established by the committee, but not later than seven years after the grant date.

Upon the grant of an award of stock appreciation rights, the recipient will receive an award agreement that specifies the terms and conditions of the award, including the number of shares subject to the stock appreciation right and the terms, conditions and restrictions related to the award.

### ***Exercise Price of a Stock Appreciation Right***

The exercise price of the shares subject to each stock appreciation right is set by the committee, but cannot be less than 100% of the fair market value on the date of grant of the shares covered by the stock appreciation right. The fair market value of shares covered by a stock appreciation right is calculated as the closing price of our stock on the trading day prior to the grant date. Notwithstanding the above, the exercise price of the shares subject to a stock appreciation right may be less than the minimum exercise price set forth above if the stock appreciation right is granted as a substitute award in connection with a merger or acquisition, but only to the extent such exercise price does not result in taxation under Section 409A or violate applicable law.

### ***Dividend and Dividend Equivalent Rights***

Dividend equivalent rights are credits, payable in cash or stock and granted at the discretion of the committee (and having such terms approved by the committee), to the account of a participant. The credit is payable in an amount equal to the cash dividends paid on one share for each share represented by an award held by the participant, which at the discretion of the committee may be deemed reinvested in additional shares of stock covered by an award. Stock options and stock appreciation rights shall not be eligible to receive dividends, dividend equivalent rights or any other similar distribution rights. Dividend equivalent rights payable in stock on or after the date of the 2015 Annual Meeting will reduce the number of shares available for issuance under the plan by one and nine-tenths shares for every share payable thereunder.

Dividends payable with respect to a restricted stock award that is subject to performance conditions and dividend equivalent rights with respect to a restricted stock unit award that is subject to performance conditions shall be held in escrow or deemed reinvested in additional shares of restricted stock or additional restricted stock units, as applicable, until the achievement of the applicable performance conditions and shall be otherwise subject to the same terms and conditions applicable to the award.

### ***Deferred Stock Awards***

A deferred stock award is the right to receive shares of common stock at the end of a specified deferral period determined by the committee or elected by the participant pursuant to rules set by the committee. The committee may determine that the right to the award vests based on continued service to us and/or on the achievement of specific performance goals established by the committee. The committee determines the vesting schedule of deferred stock awards, subject to the minimum vesting requirements and the permitted Vesting Exceptions described above. Subject to these requirements, the committee generally has the authority to accelerate the vesting of any award.

The participant may defer receipt of the shares beyond vesting (for instance, until termination of employment or other specified time). Deferred stock awards may allow participants to defer income tax until the receipt of the shares. Refer to the questions and answers below dealing with tax consequences of deferred stock awards.

The shares available for issuance under the plan will be reduced by one and nine-tenths shares for every share issued subject to a deferred stock award granted on or after May 23, 2006, and if such an award is forfeited, canceled or otherwise terminated, the reserve of shares available for future awards will be replenished by one and nine-tenths shares for every one share subject to the forfeited, canceled or terminated portion of the award.

The committee will determine the number of shares of deferred stock awards granted to any participant, but no participant may be granted more than an aggregate of 1,000,000 shares covered by awards of deferred stock awards, restricted stock or restricted stock units during any calendar year.

#### ***Further Deferring Shares Covered by a Deferred Stock Award***

If the committee permits it, a participant may elect to further defer receipt of the shares payable under a deferred stock award for an additional specified period or until a specified event, if the election is made in accordance with the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.

### ***Performance Goals***

We have designed the plan in a manner intended to permit us to pay compensation that qualifies as performance-based under Section 162(m). If the committee intends for an award to qualify as performance-based compensation, then, at the committee's discretion, one or more of the following performance goals may apply: (i) revenue (on an absolute basis or adjusted for currency effects); (ii) cash flow (including operating cash flow or free cash flow); (iii) cash position; (iv) earnings (which may include earnings before interest and taxes, earnings before taxes, net earnings or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization); (v) earnings per share; (vi) gross margin; (vii) net income; (viii) operating expenses or operating expenses as a percentage of revenue; (ix) operating income or net operating income; (x) return on assets or net assets; (xi) return on equity; (xii) return on sales; (xiii) total stockholder return; (xiv) stock price; (xv) growth in stockholder value relative to the moving average of the S&P 500 Index, or another index; (xvi) return on capital; (xvii) return on investment; (xviii) economic value added; (xix) operating margin; (xx) market share; (xxi) overhead or other expense reduction; (xxii) credit rating; (xxiii) objective customer indicators; (xxiv) improvements in productivity; (xxv) attainment of objective operating goals; (xxvi) objective employee metrics; (xxvii) return ratios; (xxviii) profit; or (xxix) other objective financial metrics relating to the progress of the company or to a subsidiary, division or department thereof.

These performance goals may apply to either the company as a whole or, except with respect to stockholder return metrics, to a region, business unit, affiliate or business segment, or on an individual basis. The goals may be measured on an absolute basis, a per-share basis or relative to a pre-established target, to a previous period's results or to a designated comparison group, in each case as specified by the committee. The performance goals may differ from participant to participant and from award to award. Financial performance measures may be determined in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, or GAAP, in accordance with accounting standards established by the International Accounting Standards Board, or IASB

Standards, or may be adjusted by our committee when established to exclude or include any items otherwise includable or excludable, respectively, under GAAP or under IASB Standards. The committee may choose other performance goals for awards that are not intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m).

#### ***Awards that Expire or are Forfeited***

If an award expires or is canceled or otherwise terminated without having been fully exercised or vested, the unvested, expired, forfeited, canceled or otherwise terminated shares generally will be returned to the available pool of shares reserved for issuance under the plan. However, the available pool of shares reserved for issuance under the plan will be reduced by one and nine-tenths shares for every share issued subject to an award of restricted stock, restricted stock units or deferred stock granted on or after the date of stockholder approval of the 2006 amendment and restatement, so if such an award expires or is canceled or otherwise terminated without vesting, the reserve of shares available for future awards will be replenished by one and nine-tenths shares for every one share subject to the expired, canceled or terminated portion of the award. Shares used to pay the exercise price of an option or stock-settled stock appreciation right or to satisfy tax withholding obligations will not be returned to the available pool of shares reserved for issuance under the plan.

The payout of dividend equivalents in shares will reduce the number of shares available for issuance under the plan by one and nine-tenths shares for every share issued. Similarly, the forfeiture of dividend equivalents payable in shares will increase the number of shares available for issuance under the plan by one and nine-tenths shares for every share forfeited. In addition, to the extent an award under the plan (other than a stock option or stock appreciation right) is paid out in cash, such cash payment will not reduce the number of shares available under the plan (and in the case of stock options and stock appreciation rights will reduce the available number of shares by the number of shares having a fair market value equal to the cash delivered). However, shares purchased by the company with the proceeds of a stock option exercise shall not again be available for issuance under the plan.

#### ***Consequences of Changes in our Capital Structure***

If we experience a change in our capital structure as a result of a stock dividend, reorganization, merger, consolidation, sale of all or substantially all of our assets, recapitalization, reclassification, extraordinary cash dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, or other similar transaction, our outstanding shares are increased or decreased or exchanged for a different number or kind of shares or other securities of the company, or additional shares or new or different shares or other securities of the company or other non-cash assets are distributed with respect to such shares or securities, subject to the constraints of Code sections 162(m) and 409A, the committee will make an appropriate or proportionate adjustment to (i) the maximum number of shares available for issuance under the plan, (ii) the per person limits on awards, (iii) the number and kind of shares subject to outstanding awards, and (iv) the exercise price of outstanding stock option or stock appreciation right awards.

#### ***Consequences of a Merger or Similar Transaction***

In the event that we (i) consummate a merger or consolidation with another corporation, (ii) sell all or substantially all of our assets, (iii) reorganize, (iv) liquidate, or (v) dissolve, the Board may, in its discretion, provide that outstanding awards will be assumed or substituted for by the successor corporation or provide that all outstanding awards will terminate and accelerate vesting immediately prior to the consummation of the transaction. In the event of the acceleration (which shall not be automatic and require the exercise of discretion by the Board) and termination of awards in lieu of assumption or substitution, awards other than options and stock appreciation rights will be settled in kind in an amount determined by the committee after taking into consideration the amount per share received by stockholders in the transaction (that is, the transaction price). Under such circumstances, options and stock appreciation rights will be settled in kind in an amount per share equal to the transaction price minus the aggregate exercise price of such options or stock appreciation rights.

### ***Transferability of Awards***

Incentive stock options are not transferable, other than by will or by the applicable laws of descent and distribution. To the extent approved by the committee in accordance with the terms of the plan, other awards (including nonqualified stock options) granted under the plan that are vested are transferable, but only for no consideration, to family members or to trusts for the benefit of such family members or to such other permitted transferees to the extent covered under a Form S-8 Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

### **Federal Tax Consequences to Participants as a Result of Receiving an Award under the Incentive Plan**

The following paragraphs are a summary of the general federal income tax consequences to U.S. taxpayers resulting from awards granted under the plan. Tax consequences for any particular individual may be different.

#### ***Nonqualified Stock Options***

No taxable income generally is reportable when a nonqualified stock option is granted to a participant. Upon exercise, the participant generally will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference between the fair market value of the purchased shares on the exercise date and the exercise price of the option. Any additional gain or loss recognized upon any later disposition of the shares would be a capital gain or loss. As a result of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code, or Section 409A, however, nonqualified stock options granted with an exercise price below the fair market value of the underlying stock may be taxable to participants before exercise of an award, and may be subject to additional taxes under Section 409A and comparable state laws.

#### ***Incentive Stock Options***

No taxable income is reportable when an incentive stock option is granted or exercised, unless the alternative minimum tax, or AMT, rules apply, in which case AMT taxation will occur in the year of exercise. If the participant exercises the option and then later sells or otherwise disposes of the shares more than two years after the grant date and more than one year after the exercise date, the difference between the sale price and the exercise price will be taxed as a capital gain or loss. If the participant exercises the option and then later sells or otherwise disposes of the shares before the end of the two or one year holding periods described above, the participant generally will have ordinary income at the time of the sale equal to the difference between the fair market value of the shares on the exercise date, or the sale price, if less, and the exercise price of the option. Any additional gain or loss generally will be taxable at long-term or short-term capital gain rates, depending on whether the participant has held the shares for more than one year.

#### ***Restricted Stock***

A participant will not recognize taxable income upon the grant of restricted stock unless the participant elects to be taxed at that time. Instead, a participant generally will recognize ordinary income at the time of vesting equal to the difference between the fair market value of the shares on the vesting date and the amount, if any, paid for the shares. However, the recipient of a restricted stock award may elect, through a filing with the Internal Revenue Service, to recognize income at the time he or she receives the award in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares underlying the award (less any cash paid for the shares) on the date the award is granted.

#### ***Restricted Stock Units***

A participant generally will not recognize taxable income upon grant of restricted stock units. Instead, the participant generally will recognize ordinary income at the time the restricted stock units are settled equal to the fair market value of the shares on the settlement date less the amount, if any, paid for the shares.

### ***Stock Appreciation Rights***

A participant generally will not recognize taxable income upon the grant of a stock appreciation right. Upon exercise, the participant generally will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference between the fair market value of the exercised shares on the exercise date and the corresponding exercise price of the stock appreciation right. Any additional gain or loss recognized upon any later disposition of the shares would be a capital gain or loss. As a result of Section 409A, however, stock appreciation rights granted with an exercise price below the fair market value of the underlying stock may be taxable to the participant before exercise of an award, and may be subject to additional taxes under Section 409A and comparable state laws.

### ***Dividend Equivalents***

A participant generally will recognize ordinary income each time a payment is made or shares are received pursuant to the dividend equivalent equal to the fair market value of the payment made or shares received. If the dividend equivalents are deferred, additional requirements must be met to ensure that the dividend equivalents are taxable upon deferred receipt of cash or shares.

### ***Deferred Stock Awards***

A participant generally will not have taxable income upon the grant of a deferred stock award. Instead, a participant generally will recognize ordinary income at the time of the receipt of the shares subject to the award equal to the difference between the fair market value of the shares at the time of receipt and the amount, if any, paid for the shares. However, an employee participant will be subject to employment taxes (FICA and, where applicable, state disability insurance taxes) at the time a deferred stock award vests, even if the participant has not yet received the shares subject to the award. We do not guarantee the federal or state income tax treatment of the deferred amounts. If the Internal Revenue Service successfully asserts that the deferral was ineffective, the recipient could be liable for taxes, interest and penalties. In addition, the recipient could be liable for additional taxes, penalties and interest as a result of Section 409A and/or comparable state laws.

### ***Tax Effects as a Result of Grants of Awards under the Incentive Plan***

We generally will be entitled to a tax deduction in connection with the vesting, settlement or exercise of an award under the plan in an amount equal to the ordinary income realized by a participant at the time the participant recognizes such income, such as when a participant exercises a nonqualified stock option. Special rules limit the deductibility of compensation paid to our Chief Executive Officer and to each of our next three most highly compensated executive officers (other than our principal financial officer). Under Section 162(m), the annual compensation paid to any of these specified executives will be deductible only to the extent that it does not exceed \$1,000,000. However, we can preserve the deductibility of certain compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 if the conditions of Section 162(m) are met. Among others, these conditions include: (i) stockholder approval of the material terms of the plan; (ii) setting limits on the number of awards that any individual may receive; and (iii) for awards other than certain stock options and stock appreciation rights, establishing performance criteria that must be met before the award actually will vest or be paid. The plan is intended to permit the committee to grant awards that qualify as performance-based for purposes of satisfying the conditions of Section 162(m), thereby permitting us to continue to receive a federal income tax deduction in connection with such awards. However, because of the fact-based nature of the performance-based compensation exception under Section 162(m) and the limited availability of binding guidance thereunder, we cannot guarantee that awards under the plan intended to comply with such exception will in fact comply.

The Board generally may amend or terminate the plan at any time and for any reason subject to participant consent in certain circumstances. Amendments will be contingent on stockholder approval if required by applicable law, stock exchange listing requirements or if so determined by the Board. By its terms, the amended and restated plan will automatically terminate on March 25, 2025, unless its term is extended or it is earlier terminated by the Board. In addition, as mentioned above and subject to limited exceptions, the committee may not reduce the exercise price of stock options or stock appreciation rights, including canceling an existing stock



option or stock appreciation right having an exercise price that exceeds the fair market value of the underlying stock in exchange for a new award (including a stock option or stock appreciation right), cash, other consideration, or a combination thereof, without prior consent from our stockholders.

**Recoupment of Awards**

Under the plan, awards are subject to recoupment in accordance with applicable law and any recoupment policy adopted by us from time to time.

**Specific Benefits Granted under the Amended and Restated Incentive Plan**

The amount and timing of awards granted under the plan are determined in the sole discretion of the committee and therefore cannot be determined in advance. Except for the automatic grants to non-employee directors, described above, the future awards that would be received under the plan by executive officers and other employees are discretionary and are therefore not determinable at this time. If the proposed amendment of the plan had been in effect for our fiscal year ended February 1, 2015, we do not expect that the number of shares granted to participants under the plan during that year would have been materially different than the number of shares granted as set forth in the table below. The primary changes to the amended and restated Incentive Plan that will be made pursuant to this proposal include an increase to the shares issuable under the plan by 6,550,000 shares and an extension of the term of the plan to 2025. We also are asking stockholders to approve the material terms of the plan.

The following table sets forth information as of February 1, 2015 with respect to awards granted during fiscal 2014 under the 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan to the individuals and groups specified below.

**Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan**

<u>Name and Position</u>	<u>Options</u>		<u>Stock Appreciation Rights</u>		<u>Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units</u>	
	<u># of Shares Subject to Options Granted (#)</u>	<u>Average Exercise Price (\$)</u>	<u># of Shares Subject to SARs Granted (#)</u>	<u>Average Exercise Price (\$)</u>	<u># of Shares/Units Granted (#)</u>	<u>Dollar Value (\$)(1)</u>
Named Executive Officers:						
Laura J. Alber .....	—	—	—	—	159,820(2)	\$12,505,915
Julie P. Whalen .....	—	—	—	—	28,767(3)	\$ 2,251,018
Sandra N. Stangl .....	—	—	—	—	59,133(4)	\$ 4,627,157
Janet M. Hayes .....	—	—	—	—	39,955(5)	\$ 3,126,479
Patrick J. Connolly .....	—	—	—	—	21,287(6)	\$ 1,665,708
All current executive officers as a group (six persons) .....	—	—	—	—	320,149	\$25,051,660
All current non-employee directors as a group (eight persons) .....	—	—	—	—	20,083	\$ 1,571,495
Each other person who has received more than 5% of the options, warrants or other rights under the plan .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
All employees, including all current officers who are not executive officers or directors, as a group (646 persons) .....	—	—	—	—	624,985	\$48,905,076
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	—	—	—	—	965,217	\$75,528,231

(1) Value is based on a stock price of \$78.25, the closing price of our common stock on January 30, 2015, the last business day of fiscal 2014.



- (2) Includes (i) restricted stock unit award of 47,946 shares of common stock made on April 22, 2014 and (ii) performance stock unit award of 111,874 shares of common stock at target payout made on April 22, 2014.
- (3) Includes (i) restricted stock unit award of 23,014 shares of common stock at target payout made on April 22, 2014 and (ii) performance stock unit award of 5,753 shares of common stock at target payout made on April 22, 2014.
- (4) Includes (i) restricted stock unit award of 47,307 shares of common stock made on April 22, 2014 and (ii) performance stock unit award of 11,826 shares of common stock at target payout made on April 22, 2014.
- (5) Includes (i) restricted stock unit award of 31,964 shares of common stock made on April 22, 2014 and (ii) performance stock unit award of 7,991 shares of common stock at target payout made on April 22, 2014.
- (6) Includes (i) restricted stock unit award of 17,030 shares of common stock made on April 22, 2014 and (ii) performance stock unit award of 4,257 shares of common stock at target payout made on April 22, 2014.

**Recommendation that the 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan be Amended and Restated and its Material Terms Approved**

We believe that the amended and restated Incentive Plan and the approval of its material terms are essential to our continued success. Our employees are our most valuable asset. Equity awards such as those provided under the plan will substantially assist us in continuing to attract and retain employees and non-employee directors in the extremely competitive labor markets in which we compete. Such awards also are crucial to our ability to motivate employees to achieve our goals. We will benefit from increased stock ownership by selected executives, other employees and non-employee directors. The increase in the reserve of common stock available under the plan will enable us to continue to grant such awards to executives, other eligible employees and our non-employee directors.

**Required Vote for this Proposal**

To approve this proposal, a majority of voting power entitled to vote thereon, present in person or represented by proxy, at the Annual Meeting must vote “FOR” this proposal.

**If approved, when would the amended and restated plan become effective?**

The amended and restated Incentive Plan would become effective upon stockholder approval at the Annual Meeting.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE “FOR” THE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF THE 2001 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN.**

## PROPOSAL 3

### ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

This is a proposal asking stockholders to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement in accordance with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, or the “Dodd-Frank Act,” and the applicable SEC rules. This proposal is commonly known as a “Say on Pay” proposal, and gives our stockholders the opportunity to express their views on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers.

#### Compensation Program and Philosophy

As described in detail under the heading “Executive Compensation,” our executive officer compensation program is constructed to attract, retain and motivate highly qualified personnel in support of our primary objective of creating long-term value for stockholders, while maintaining direct links between executive pay, individual performance, the company’s financial performance and stockholder returns. A significant portion of individual compensation is directly dependent on the company’s achievement of financial goals, which we believe aligns executive interests with stockholder interests and encourages long-term stockholder returns.

#### Fiscal 2014 Compensation Summary

To align our executive compensation packages with our executive compensation philosophy, the following compensation actions were approved by the Compensation Committee for fiscal 2014:

- *Adjustments to Base Salary:* Certain executive officers received base salary increases in light of demonstrated strong performance. The base salary of our Chief Executive Officer remained unchanged.
- *Performance-Based Cash Bonus:* Performance-based cash bonuses were paid for fiscal 2014 performance in alignment with the company’s earnings per share goal, the achievement of positive net cash from operating activities, and outstanding leadership and individual performance by our Named Executive Officers.
- *Performance-Based and Time-Based Equity:* In fiscal 2014, our Named Executive Officers were granted performance stock units (PSUs) with variable payout based on a three-year performance metric and restricted stock units (RSUs) with both performance and service vesting. The PSUs granted in fiscal 2014 vest 100% after three years based upon achievement of pre-established earnings goals. The RSUs granted in fiscal 2014 vest 25% per year over a four-year period beginning on the grant date, in each case because positive net cash from operating activities was achieved in fiscal 2014.

In addition to the above summary, stockholders are encouraged to read the “Executive Compensation” section of this Proxy Statement for details about our executive compensation programs, including information about the fiscal 2014 compensation of our Named Executive Officers.

We are asking our stockholders to indicate their support for our Named Executive Officer compensation as described in this Proxy Statement. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of our Named Executive Officers and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this Proxy Statement. Accordingly, we ask our stockholders to vote “FOR” the following resolution at the 2015 Annual Meeting:

“RESOLVED, that the company’s stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Named Executive Officers, as disclosed in the company’s Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Executive Compensation, the tabular disclosure regarding such compensation and the accompanying narrative disclosure.”

#### Required Vote for this Proposal

To approve this proposal, a majority of voting power entitled to vote thereon, present in person or represented by proxy, at the Annual Meeting must vote “FOR” this proposal.

This Say on Pay vote is advisory, and therefore not binding on the company, the Compensation Committee or our Board. Our Board and our Compensation Committee value the opinions of our stockholders and to the extent there is any significant vote against the Named Executive Officer compensation as disclosed in this Proxy Statement, we will consider our stockholders' concerns and the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address those concerns.

Under the rules of the NYSE, brokers are prohibited from giving proxies to vote on executive compensation matters unless the beneficial owner of such shares has given voting instructions on the matter. This means that if your broker is the record holder of your shares, you must give voting instructions to your broker with respect to Proposal 3 if you want your broker to vote your shares on the matter.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE “FOR” THE APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AS DESCRIBED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO THE COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE RULES OF THE SEC.**

## PROPOSAL 4

### RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

This is a proposal asking stockholders to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP, or Deloitte, as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2016. The Audit and Finance Committee selected Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2016, subject to ratification by our stockholders. Although stockholder ratification of our independent registered public accounting firm is not required by law, as a matter of corporate governance, we are requesting that our stockholders ratify such selection.

A Deloitte representative will be present at the Annual Meeting, and will have the opportunity to make a statement and to respond to appropriate questions.

#### **Deloitte Fees and Services**

Deloitte has audited our financial statements for the last 35 years. Based in part upon information provided by Deloitte, the Audit and Finance Committee determined that Deloitte is independent under applicable independence standards. The Audit and Finance Committee has reviewed and discussed the fees billed by Deloitte for services in fiscal 2014, as detailed below, and determined that the provision of non-audit services was compatible with Deloitte's independence.

Deloitte provided the company with the following services:

#### *Audit Fees*

Deloitte billed approximately \$1,784,000 for fiscal 2014 and \$1,608,000 for fiscal 2013 for professional services to (i) audit our consolidated financial statements and perform an assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, (ii) review our condensed consolidated financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, (iii) audit our 401(k) plan, and (iv) audit our statutory reports for our global entities.

#### *Tax Fees*

Deloitte billed a total of approximately \$141,000 for fiscal 2014 and \$172,000 for fiscal 2013 for tax services. Tax services included approximately: (i) \$95,000 for fiscal 2014 and \$91,000 for fiscal 2013 for tax compliance services, which included consultation for the preparation of our federal, state and local tax returns; and (ii) \$46,000 for fiscal 2014 and \$81,000 for fiscal 2013 for tax consulting services.

#### *All Other Fees*

Deloitte billed a total of approximately \$27,000 for each of fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2013 for all other fees. All other fees consisted of sustainability consulting fees and license fees related to the use of Deloitte's online accounting research tool.

During fiscal 2014 and 2013, Deloitte did not perform any prohibited non-audit services or audit-related services for us.

#### **Pre-Approval Policy**

All services performed by Deloitte, whether audit or non-audit services, must be pre-approved by the Audit and Finance Committee or a designated member of the Audit and Finance Committee, whose decisions must be reported to the Audit and Finance Committee at its next meeting. Pre-approval cannot be obtained more than one year before performance begins and can be for general classes of permitted services such as annual audit services or tax consulting services. All fees paid to Deloitte for fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2013 were pre-approved by the Audit and Finance Committee.

**Required Vote for this Proposal**

To approve this proposal, a majority of voting power entitled to vote thereon, present in person or represented by proxy, at the Annual Meeting must vote “FOR” this proposal.

If stockholders vote against this proposal, the Audit and Finance Committee will consider interviewing other independent registered public accounting firms. There can be no assurance, however, that it will choose to appoint another independent registered public accounting firm if this proposal is not approved.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE “FOR” THE RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 2016.**

## AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit and Finance Committee oversees the company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board. In meeting these responsibilities, as described under the heading "Corporate Governance—Board Committees", we perform the following functions:

- Monitor the integrity of the company's financial reports, earnings and guidance press releases, and other company financial information;
- Appoint and/or replace the independent registered public accounting firm, pre-approve all audit and non-audit services of the independent registered public accounting firm, and assess its qualifications and independence;
- Review the performance of the company's internal audit function, the company's auditing, accounting and financial reporting procedures, and the company's independent registered public accounting firm;
- Monitor the company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- Monitor the company's system of internal controls and internal control over financial reporting;
- Retain independent legal, accounting or other advisors when necessary and appropriate;
- Review the financial impact on the company of selected strategic initiatives and selected financing plans, and develop and recommend policies related to dividend and stock repurchase programs; and
- Review with management the company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the company's risk assessment and risk management policies.

In performing these functions, we took the following actions, among other things, related to fiscal 2014:

- Reviewed and discussed the company's audited consolidated financial statements for fiscal 2014 and unaudited quarterly condensed consolidated financial statements for fiscal 2014 with management and Deloitte;
- Reviewed, discussed with management and approved the company's periodic filings on Forms 10-K and 10-Q;
- Reviewed, discussed with management and approved all company earnings and guidance press releases;
- Reviewed and discussed the company's internal control over financial reporting with management and Deloitte;
- Reviewed and discussed with the company's internal audit department the company's internal audit plans, the significant internal audit reports issued to management and management's responses;
- Reviewed and discussed with management and the company's internal audit department the company's major financial risk exposures, including with regard to legal and regulatory matters, and the company's risk assessment and risk management policies;
- Met with Deloitte, with and without management present, to discuss the overall quality of the internal and external audit process and the financial reporting process;
- Reviewed and discussed with management, the company's internal audit department and Deloitte the sufficiency of the company's information technology systems, including how such systems support effective internal controls; and
- Discussed with Deloitte its independence from the company based on the following: (i) our confirmation that no member of Deloitte's current or former audit team is or has been employed by the company in a financial reporting oversight role; (ii) our review of audit and non-audit fees; and (iii) the written communications from Deloitte as required by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or PCAOB, requirements.

During fiscal 2014, we discussed the following other matters, among other things, with Deloitte:

- Deloitte’s responsibilities in connection with the audit of the company’s financial statements and matters relating to Deloitte’s independence;
- Deloitte’s annual letter describing its internal quality control procedures;
- The company’s internal control over financial reporting;
- Any significant issues arising during the audit and any other matters relating to the conduct of the audit of the company’s financial statements; and
- Matters required to be discussed pursuant to relevant PCAOB and SEC requirements, including the quality of the company’s accounting principles, the soundness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the company’s financial statements.

*The Audit and Finance Committee hereby reports as follows:\**

(1) The Audit and Finance Committee has reviewed and discussed the company’s audited financial statements with management and Deloitte;

(2) The Audit and Finance Committee has discussed with Deloitte the matters required by PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 16, *Communications with Audit Committees*;

(3) The Audit and Finance Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from Deloitte required by the applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding Deloitte’s communications with the Audit and Finance Committee concerning independence and has discussed with Deloitte its independence; and

Based on the review and discussions referred to in items (1) through (3) above, the Audit and Finance Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2014 for filing with the SEC.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adrian T. Dillon, Chairman  
Ted W. Hall  
Michael R. Lynch  
Sabrina Simmons

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\* This report shall not be deemed to be (i) “soliciting material,” (ii) “filed” with the SEC, (iii) subject to Regulations 14A or 14C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or (iv) subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall they be deemed incorporated by reference into any of our other filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except to the extent we specifically incorporate them by reference into such filing.



## INFORMATION CONCERNING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table provides certain information about our executive officers as of March 30, 2015. Our executive officers are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of our Board, subject to rights, if any, under employment contracts.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position with the Company and Business Experience</u>
Laura J. Alber . . . . . Age 46	*
Julie P. Whalen . . . . . Age 44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer since 2012</li> <li>• Treasurer, 2011 – 2014</li> <li>• Senior Vice President, Controller, 2006 – 2012</li> <li>• Vice President, Controller, 2003 – 2006</li> </ul>
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . . Age 68	*
Janet M. Hayes . . . . . Age 47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President, Williams-Sonoma Brand since 2013</li> <li>• President, Pottery Barn Kids and PBteen Brands, 2010 – 2013</li> <li>• Executive Vice President, Pottery Barn Kids and PBteen Brands, 2008 – 2010</li> <li>• Senior Vice President and General Merchandising Manager, Pottery Barn, 2007 – 2008</li> </ul>
David R. King . . . . . Age 46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since 2011</li> <li>• Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, 2010 – 2011</li> <li>• Vice President, Associate General Counsel, 2006 – 2010</li> <li>• Director, Associate General Counsel, 2004 – 2006</li> </ul>
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . . Age 47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President, Pottery Barn Brands (Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids and PBteen) since 2013</li> <li>• President, Pottery Barn Brand, 2008 – 2013</li> <li>• Executive Vice President, Pottery Barn Kids and PBteen Brands, 2006 – 2008</li> <li>• Senior Vice President, General Merchandising Manager, 2003 – 2006</li> <li>• Senior Vice President, Product Development, 2002 – 2003</li> </ul>

\* Biographical information can be found in the table under the section titled “Information Regarding the Director Nominees” beginning on page 14 of this Proxy Statement.



## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes our compensation program, the compensation decisions we made under our program, and the reasoning underlying those decisions. This discussion and analysis focuses on the compensation of our “Named Executive Officers,” who in fiscal 2014 were:

Laura J. Alber	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer
Julie P. Whalen	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
Sandra N. Stangl	President, Pottery Barn Brands
Janet M. Hayes	President, Williams-Sonoma Brand
Patrick J. Connolly	Director and Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer

### *Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Executive Summary*

Our compensation decisions begin with the objective of paying for performance. Our stockholders cast a substantial vote in favor of our 2013 executive compensation at our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and our fiscal 2014 financial performance was above fiscal 2013 levels (including another year of record net revenues in fiscal 2014). For fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee took the following steps to continue to align executive pay with company performance.

- We introduced performance stock units (PSUs) to our equity program, with variable payout based on a cumulative three-year performance metric and 100% cliff vesting after three years.
- We did not change the base salary of our Chief Executive Officer, which has remained unchanged since 2012, to continue our emphasis on the performance-based components of her compensation.
- 90% of the total target compensation of our Chief Executive Officer was based on company performance.
- We set the fiscal 2014 earnings per share target under our annual bonus plan significantly higher than our actual earnings per share for 2013 and did not increase target cash bonus percentages for our Named Executive Officers.
- The stock ownership guidelines for the Named Executive Officers and certain other executives (other than the Chief Executive Officer) were increased from one times base salary to two times base salary, effective March 2015. The stock ownership guideline for our Chief Executive Officer remained at five times base salary.

In addition to actual results, our perspective is that performance includes how we achieve those results. Our company values guide the way we think and approach our business, and we measure executive performance with respect to these values as we make compensation decisions. This assessment is reflected in the compensation recommendations that our Chief Executive Officer makes to the Compensation Committee with respect to the other Named Executive Officers and the Compensation Committee’s decisions with respect to the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer.

## ***Our Values***

Everything we do revolves around our mission to enhance our customers' lives at home. We are committed to quality and service, and delivering an inspiring retail experience. Our core values include:

### **People First**

*We believe that our company has no limit and is driven by our associates and their imagination. We are committed to an environment that attracts, motivates and recognizes high performance.*

### **Customers**

*We are here to please our customers – without them, nothing else matters.*

### **Quality**

*We take pride in everything we do. From our people to our products, and in our relationships with business partners and our community, quality is our signature.*

### **Stockholders**

*We are committed to providing a superior return to our stockholders. It's everyone's job.*

### **Integrity**

*We do business with the highest level of integrity. Every day, in everything we do.*

### **Corporate Responsibility**

*We will build sustainability into every corner of our enterprise so that our continued financial success will enhance the lives of our many stakeholders, the communities where we have a business presence and the natural environment upon which we rely.*

## ***Fiscal 2014 Performance Highlights***

Fiscal 2014 was another year of strong performance for our company. We experienced growth in all of our brands and across our channels, highlighted by our highly profitable e-commerce business, which grew to over 50% of our total revenue. Fiscal 2014 financial achievements included:

- Annualized total stockholder return of 46% and 32% over the last 1- and 3-year periods, respectively.
- Net revenues increased to \$4.699 billion.
- Diluted earnings per share reached \$3.24.
- E-commerce net revenues grew 12.1% and generated over 50% of our total net revenues in fiscal 2014 versus 48% in fiscal 2013.
- Returned over \$350 million to our stockholders through stock repurchases and dividends.

At the same time, we made progress against our long-term strategic growth initiatives. Highlights of our fiscal 2014 achievements include:

- **Strengthening our brands** – Comparable brand revenue growth across our business in fiscal 2014 was 7.1%, on top of 8.8% growth in fiscal 2013. Our innovative, exclusive products and our high-service multi-channel model, along with brand-specific initiatives, led to our strong performance.
- **Laying the foundation for global expansion and new business development** – Our franchise partners currently operate 28 stores in the Middle East and 2 stores in the Philippines, and we signed an agreement for a new franchise partner to operate stores and e-commerce websites in Mexico. In Australia, our first major entry with company-owned stores, we have opened 13 stores to date and plan to open more in 2015. Our newest businesses – Rejuvenation and Mark and Graham – together grew 30% in fiscal 2014, and are examples of how we can leverage our extensive data analytics capabilities to identify prospective customers and build profitable brands quickly.

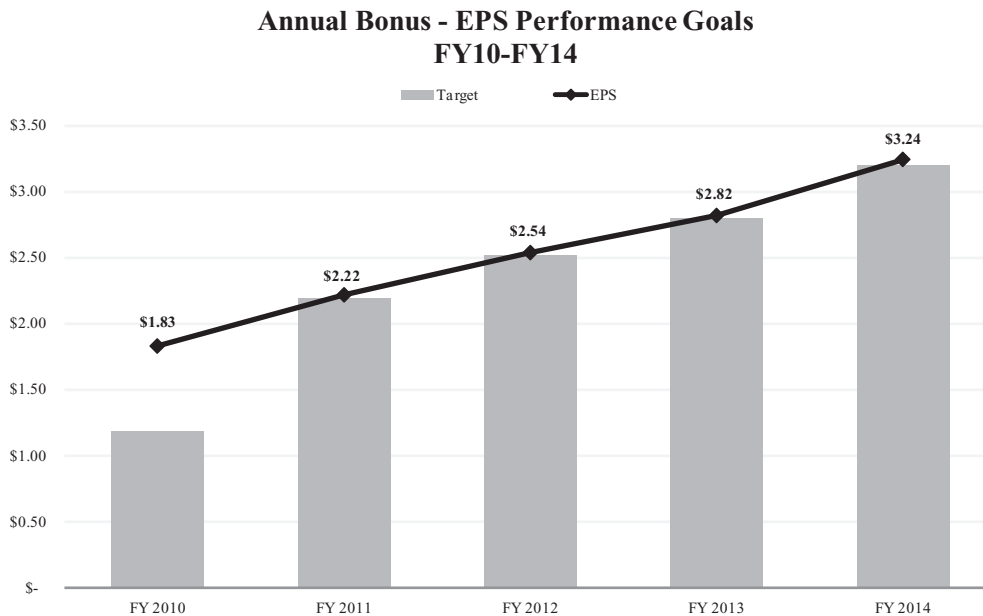
- **Investing in our supply chain** – We completed the insourcing of our foreign buying offices, which will not only reduce cost but improve quality and strengthen our supplier relationships. In addition, we continue to refine our domestic supply chain by insourcing more of our furniture delivery operations. We also made significant progress in automating aspects of our personalization capability.
- **Investing in e-commerce, as well as technology and infrastructure** – We implemented technology enhancements to improve customer service and advance the flexibility and capacity of our e-commerce platform. In fiscal 2014, e-commerce represented over 50% of our net revenues.

We have driven consistent profitable growth through innovation, operational excellence and our customer-centered approach, along with exceptional financial discipline. We believe that our long-term outlook is strong and that there is a significant opportunity to expand our reach domestically and globally.

***Our Compensation Program Aligns and Advances Executive and Stockholder Interests***

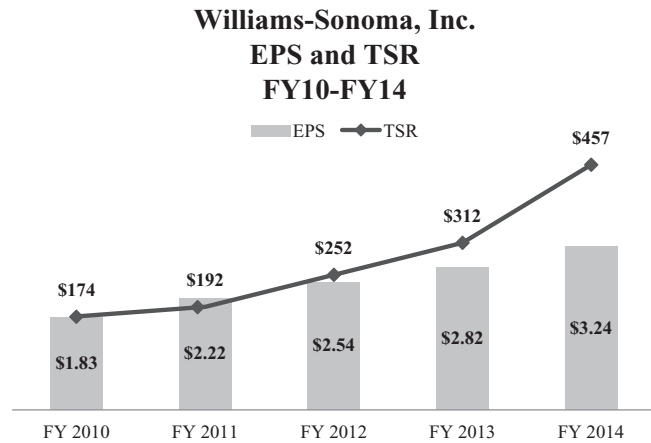
Our compensation program is constructed to attract, motivate and retain exceptional executives in support of our primary objective to create long-term value for stockholders. Fundamentally, we believe that earnings per share, or EPS, is the measure most closely aligned with long-term stockholder value and, as such, each executive’s bonus payout is dependent on the company’s achievement of an annual EPS goal.

The chart below illustrates the year over year increases of our target performance goals under our 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan, as well as our EPS. Our performance goals are consistently set higher than the previous year’s EPS.

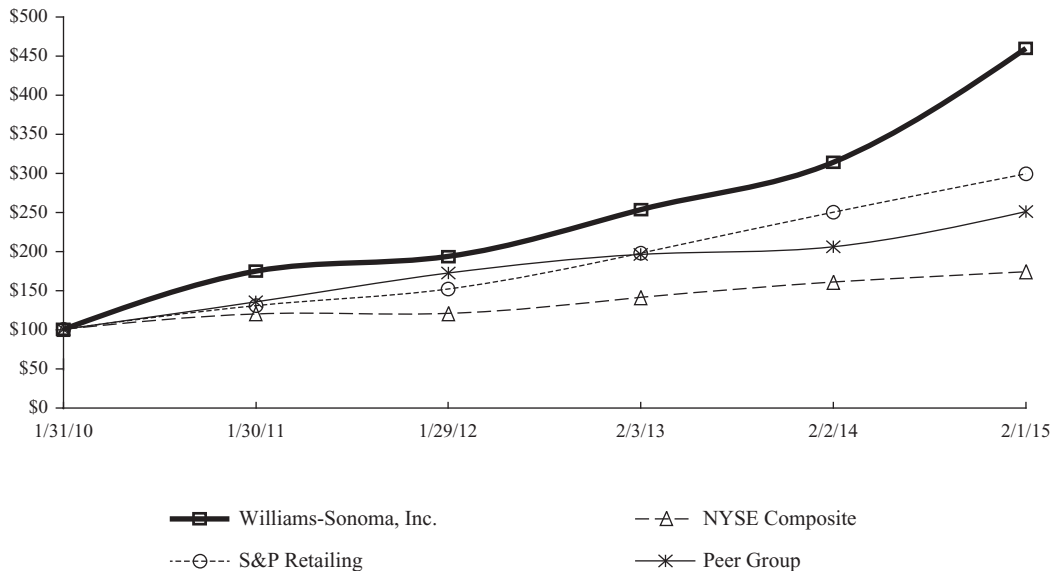


Similarly, our equity compensation and stock ownership guidelines are structured to encourage our executives to deliver long-term sustained growth in our stock price. We believe this dual approach aligns executive and stockholder interests. When we exceed targeted performance levels and/or our stock price appreciates, our executives’ compensation opportunity is substantially increased. When we do not achieve targeted performance levels and/or our stock price does not appreciate, our executives’ compensation opportunity is substantially reduced.

The charts below summarize our EPS growth and total stockholder return (TSR), over the past five years, and compare our five-year cumulative TSR to our proxy peer group companies and certain market indices. These returns assume an initial investment of \$100 on January 31, 2010 (the first day of fiscal 2010) and reinvestment of dividends. Based upon a review of the results achieved, we believe our compensation program is effective in incenting performance and linking performance with appropriate rewards.



**COMPARISON OF 5 YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN\***  
**Among Williams-Sonoma, Inc., the NYSE Composite Index,**  
**S&P Retailing, and Peer Group**



***Stockholders Supported Our Compensation Program in 2014***

Our stockholders express their views on our compensation program and compensation decisions annually by casting votes in favor of or against our annual Say on Pay proposal. At the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, over 89% of the votes cast were in favor of our Say on Pay proposal. The Compensation Committee considered this advisory vote in determining whether our stockholders continue to support our compensation policies and our compensation decisions, and concluded that it demonstrates continued support.

Proxy

### Overview of 2014 Compensation Decisions

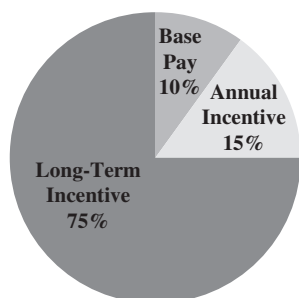
In fiscal 2014 we continued to advance our business and strategic objectives. Our compensation decisions for fiscal 2014 were intended to reward the achievements of fiscal 2014, drive strong performance in fiscal 2015, provide incentives for long-term growth, and retain our key executives. These decisions included:

- *Base Salaries.* Certain executives received base salary increases to position them more appropriately in light of demonstrated strong performance. The base salary of our Chief Executive Officer remained unchanged.
- *Annual Bonuses.* Our Named Executive Officers earned bonus payouts ranging from 71% of target to 167% of target based on both company and individual performance for fiscal 2014. Target cash bonus percentages for fiscal 2014 remained unchanged from fiscal 2013.
- *Long-Term Incentives.* We granted two forms of equity awards in fiscal 2014, restricted stock units (RSUs) and performance stock units (PSUs). PSUs were granted for the first time in fiscal 2014 and introduced a long-term incentive award with a variable payout based on achievement of a cumulative three-year earnings goal. The PSUs granted in fiscal 2014 vest fully and are paid out after three years, if at all, based on company performance. The RSUs granted in fiscal 2014 included a one-year performance-based vesting requirement and a time-based vesting schedule of 25% per year over a four-year period.

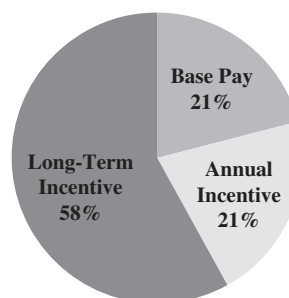
We believe our fiscal 2014 long-term incentive structure provides an appropriate mix of retention for our top executive talent and at-risk incentive to drive long-term performance.

The charts below illustrate the proportion of each element of our Named Executive Officers' and our Chief Executive Officer's fiscal 2014 compensation as reported in the Summary Compensation Table on page 53.

**Fiscal 2014 CEO  
Target Total Direct Compensation**



**Fiscal 2014 Other NEO  
Target Total Direct Compensation  
(Excluding CEO)**



### Overview of Chief Executive Officer Compensation

Since becoming Chief Executive Officer in 2010, Ms. Alber's leadership of the company has driven year-over-year gains in revenue, profitability, EPS and total stockholder return. The compensation of our Chief Executive Officer is designed to pay for performance; 90% of Ms. Alber's total compensation opportunity for fiscal 2014 was comprised of variable incentive-based compensation, which aligns with and advances stockholders' interests. Listed below are the main elements of pay and a summary of the Compensation Committee's decisions related to the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer for fiscal 2014.

- *Base Salary.* There was no base salary change for fiscal 2014.
- *Annual Bonus.* Annual bonus for fiscal 2014 was paid at 167% of target, based on strong financial performance and outstanding execution of strategic objectives.

- *Long-Term Incentives.* We granted long-term incentive awards of 47,946 RSUs with a one-year performance-based vesting requirement and a time-based vesting schedule of 25% per year over a four-year period. Additionally, we granted 111,874 PSUs at target payout subject to a cumulative three-year performance metric and a three-year cliff vesting schedule.

### *Compensation Governance*

We maintain compensation practices that are aligned with prevalent and sustainable corporate governance principles intended to encourage actions that are in the long-term interests of stockholders and the company, and discourage actions such as excessive risk-taking and other actions contrary to the long-term interests of stockholders. Below, we highlight key elements of our compensation governance.

#### *Compensation Practices We Follow*

- *We pay for performance.* With the exception of base salary and benefits, our compensation elements are incentive-based. Variable pay constitutes approximately 75% of total target compensation for our Named Executive Officers other than our Chief Executive Officer, whose variable pay for fiscal 2014 was 90% of total target compensation.
- *We structure each element of compensation with a specific purpose.* Our process for making compensation decisions involves a strategic review of the role and the level of each element of compensation, as well as the balance of short-term and long-term compensation opportunities.
- *We set meaningful stock ownership guidelines.* Our expectations for stock ownership align executives' interests with those of our stockholders. The ownership guideline for our Chief Executive Officer is five times base salary. In March 2015, the ownership guideline for the Named Executive Officers and certain other executives increased from one times base salary to two times base salary. All of our Named Executive Officers meet or exceed the revised stock ownership guidelines or comply with the stock retention requirements for vested restricted stock units that are designed to bring the executive up to the applicable ownership level.
- *We review our equity plan share usage regularly.* On an annual basis, the Compensation Committee reviews and evaluates our share dilution, burn rate and overhang levels with respect to equity compensation plans and their impact on stockholder dilution. The Compensation Committee is also provided this information at each committee meeting.
- *We provide limited perquisites.* Our Named Executive Officers are not provided with any special perquisites or benefits that are not otherwise offered broadly to associates of the company, with the exception of \$12,000 in financial consulting services offered to a limited number of executives. These benefits are for financial counseling to address the complexity of the executives' financial circumstances.
- *We adopted double-trigger, not single-trigger, change in control benefits.* Our Management Retention Plan provides for accelerated vesting of equity awards and salary and bonus payouts after a change in control, but only if an executive is involuntarily terminated without cause or separates for good reason.
- *We consider the views of stockholders on an annual basis.* We provide stockholders with an annual Say on Pay advisory vote, and the Compensation Committee reviews and takes into account the results of this vote.
- *We engage an independent compensation consulting firm.* The Compensation Committee's independent consultant does not provide any other advisory or consulting services to the company.

#### *Compensation Practices We Do Not Follow*

- We do not provide excise tax gross-ups or gross-ups of any kind.
- We do not allow hedging, pledging or short sales of company stock.
- We do not pay dividends on unvested performance-based RSUs and PSUs.

- We do not grant stock options or stock appreciation rights with exercise prices below 100% of fair market value.
- We do not reprice underwater stock options or stock appreciation rights without stockholder approval.
- We do not permit personal use of our corporate aircraft.

### ***Roles in Determining Executive Compensation***

The Compensation Committee makes compensation decisions related to the compensation of the Named Executive Officers with the input and recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer (other than with respect to her own compensation). Management provides the Compensation Committee with analyses and recommendations developed internally with the Chief Executive Officer. The Compensation Committee reviews these materials with its compensation consultant and considers the consultant's advice as part of its decision-making process, including the consultant's advice regarding the selection of appropriate peers for inclusion in the company's proxy peer group. With respect to the Chief Executive Officer's base salary, the Compensation Committee makes a recommendation to the independent members of the Board of Directors, and all independent Directors determine any base salary adjustments.

### ***Role of Compensation Committee***

Each year, the Compensation Committee determines appropriate business targets for the fiscal year and evaluates performance against those targets. As the Compensation Committee structures the executive compensation program, it considers accounting and tax implications of each compensation element, as well as stockholder dilution in the case of equity awards. The Compensation Committee updates the Board of Directors regarding compensation decisions for executives and for the Chief Executive Officer, with the exception of adjustments to her base salary, which are determined by the independent members of the Board, as described above. The Compensation Committee's role is further detailed in the Compensation Committee Charter, which is available on the company's website at [www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors](http://www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors).

In making compensation decisions, the Compensation Committee reviews each executive's past and current compensation and analyzes each of the following:

- Each Named Executive Officer's achievement of established financial and operating objectives for that executive's area of responsibility;
- The total compensation opportunity for each Named Executive Officer relative to the total compensation opportunity disclosed by companies in the proxy peer group for the officer's corresponding position, for each compensation element;
- Internal positioning among the Named Executive Officers; and
- Whether the vesting schedule and value of outstanding long-term incentive awards are sufficient to provide an appropriate balance of short and long-term incentives, drive sustained performance and provide potential for appropriate reward.

### ***Role of Our Chief Executive Officer and Management***

The Chief Executive Officer is present at Compensation Committee meetings (except when her own compensation is being deliberated and established) and makes recommendations regarding the compensation program in general and each executive's compensation specifically. Her recommendations are made in the context of peer group and other relevant data, and are based on a quantitative analysis and comparison of each executive's performance against fiscal year business and strategic objectives and her qualitative evaluation of each executive's contributions to the company's long-term objectives. Further, she considers each executive's respective responsibilities and retention risk, as well as their equity position and potential for wealth accumulation. Other members of management are also present at Compensation Committee meetings to provide background information regarding the company's business and strategic objectives.



### *Role of Independent Compensation Committee Consultant*

Frederic W. Cook & Co., or Cook & Co., is the independent executive compensation consultant for the Compensation Committee. Cook & Co. provides services only as directed by the Compensation Committee and has no other relationship with the company. The Compensation Committee has reviewed its relationship with Cook & Co. and has identified no conflicts of interest.

In fiscal 2014, Cook & Co. provided the Compensation Committee with publicly disclosed proxy data related to Named Executive Officer compensation. The Compensation Committee occasionally requests that Cook & Co. attend its meetings and receives from Cook & Co., on an annual basis, an in-depth update on general and retail industry compensation trends and developments.

In addition, in fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee asked Cook & Co. to evaluate the risk inherent in our executive and non-executive compensation programs. Their report concluded that, among other things:

- The company's executive compensation program is designed to encourage behaviors aligned with the long-term interests of stockholders;
- There is appropriate balance in short-term versus long-term pay, cash versus equity, recognition of corporate versus business unit performance, financial versus non-financial goals, and use of formulas and discretion; and
- Policies are in place to mitigate compensation risk, such as stock ownership guidelines, insider trading prohibitions and disclosure requirements, and independent Compensation Committee oversight.

After considering this evaluation, the Compensation Committee concluded that our compensation programs do not encourage executives to take on business and operating risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the company.

### *Role of Market Data*

The Compensation Committee, the Chief Executive Officer and management believe that knowledge of general market practices and the specific compensation practices of our proxy peer group, listed below, is important in assessing the design and competitiveness of our compensation package. When market data is reviewed, it is considered as a reference point, rather than a fixed policy, for compensation positioning and decision-making. We do not set compensation to meet specific benchmarks or percentiles. For fiscal 2014, our executives' target total direct compensation is at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, while our total stockholder return for the last three completed fiscal years is above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile compared to our proxy peer group. The Compensation Committee determined that setting total direct compensation at this level is appropriate given the executives' strong performance and valuable experience operating in our complex multi-channel business model.

### *Our Proxy Peer Group*

The Compensation Committee uses a peer group composed of public companies in the retail industry to review competitive compensation data for the company's executives. The Compensation Committee evaluates this proxy peer group on an annual basis to ensure that the companies selected remain appropriate. The proxy peer group for fiscal 2014 was selected by the Compensation Committee based on the guiding criteria described below, with advice from Cook & Co. Certain proxy peer companies may not meet all selection criteria, but are included because they are direct competitors of our business, direct competitors for our executive talent, have a comparable business model, or for other reasons. The proxy peer group guiding criteria for fiscal 2014 was as follows:

1. Company Classification in the Global Industry Classification Standard in one of the following:
  - Home Furnishing Retail;
  - Apparel Retail; or
  - Department Stores;
2. Revenues between \$1.8 billion and \$7.3 billion;
3. Market capitalization greater than \$800 million and less than \$20 billion;
4. Between 14,000 and 56,000 employees; and/or
5. Among the top 100 e-retailers or an operator of multiple brands.

*Our Fiscal 2014 Proxy Peer Group*

For fiscal 2014, our proxy peer group consisted of the following 15 public companies:

Abercrombie & Fitch Co.	lululemon athletica inc.
American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.	Nordstrom, Inc.
Ann Inc.	Pier 1 Imports, Inc.
Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.	Restoration Hardware Holdings, Inc.
Coach, Inc.	Ross Stores, Inc.
Foot Locker, Inc.	Tiffany & Co.
The Gap, Inc.	Urban Outfitters, Inc.
L Brands, Inc.	

The following table provided by Cook & Co., based on publicly available information as of March 30, 2015, provides a financial overview of the proxy peer group companies in order to compare their revenues, net income, and market capitalization as a group relative to the company.

	<u>Annual Net Revenue (in millions)</u>	<u>Annual Net Income (in millions)</u>	<u>Market Capitalization (in millions) (as of 2/1/2015)</u>
75th Percentile .....	\$11,248	\$822	\$14,187
Average .....	\$ 6,564	\$489	\$ 9,596
Median .....	\$ 4,250	\$484	\$ 9,427
25th Percentile .....	\$ 2,908	\$ 88	\$ 3,097
Williams-Sonoma, Inc. ....	\$ 4,699	\$309	\$ 7,216

*Changes to Our Proxy Peer Group for Fiscal 2015*

For fiscal 2015, the Compensation Committee updated the proxy peer group guiding criteria to reflect WSI's current revenues and market capitalization. In addition, the Compensation Committee considered compensation peer companies used by proxy advisory firms, other major e-retailers, and other major retailers with sustained positive total stockholder return. Upon completion of its review, the Compensation Committee made no changes to the proxy peer group for fiscal 2015.

## ***Components of Our Compensation Program, 2014 Decisions and the Decision-Making Process***

Our compensation program for our Named Executive Officers is made up of the four components listed below, which are designed to create long-term value for stockholders and to attract, motivate and retain outstanding executives.

<u>Compensation Component</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Base Salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a minimum level of fixed compensation to induce executives to join and remain with the company.</li> </ul>
Annual Cash Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivates and rewards achievement toward our annual business and strategic objectives with cash that varies based on results.</li> </ul>
Long-Term Incentives (e.g. equity compensation awards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage our executive team to work toward the company's long-term growth, provide variable payout opportunities that reward the creation of sustained and long-term earnings growth and stockholder value, and offer meaningful incentives to remain with the company.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance our compensation program with significant and market-competitive health, welfare, financial and retirement benefits.</li> </ul>

### *Base Salary*

In March 2014, the Compensation Committee reviewed and set the fiscal 2014 base salaries of our Named Executive Officers based on overall company performance and performance relative to our proxy peer companies, an analysis of each executive's position relative to executives in our proxy peer group, other market data, each executive's experience (as well as past, current and anticipated contributions to the company's success), and the Chief Executive Officer's recommendations (other than with respect to her own base salary). Following review, the base salaries of the Named Executive Officers other than the Chief Executive Officer were increased in light of demonstrated strong performance.

In executive session at a meeting in March 2014, without the Chief Executive Officer present, the Compensation Committee reviewed Ms. Alber's base salary. The Compensation Committee concluded that Ms. Alber's base salary would remain unchanged for fiscal 2014, that her base salary was positioned competitively, and that her additional compensation opportunities should be earned in the form of incentive compensation.

The following table shows the fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2014 base salaries for the Named Executive Officers.

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Fiscal 2013 Base Salary</u>	<u>Fiscal 2014 Base Salary</u>
Laura J. Alber .....	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
Julie P. Whalen .....	\$ 600,000	\$ 700,000
Sandra N. Stangl .....	\$1,000,000	\$1,100,000
Janet M. Hayes .....	\$ 760,000	\$ 900,000
Patrick J. Connolly .....	\$ 643,750	\$ 700,000

### *Annual Cash Bonus*

Cash bonuses are awarded to our Named Executive Officers under the 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan, or the Bonus Plan, and paid only when established company and business objectives are met or exceeded.

At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Compensation Committee reviews and establishes individual bonus targets for each Named Executive Officer and threshold, target and maximum EPS goals under the Bonus Plan which determine the funding pool from which executive bonuses are paid.

In addition, the Compensation Committee sets a primary performance goal that must be achieved, which establishes the maximum bonus payable under the Bonus Plan to each Named Executive Officer subject to the

Compensation Committee’s discretion to reduce such amount. For fiscal 2014, this goal was positive net cash flow provided by operating activities as provided on the company’s consolidated statements of cash flows. This primary goal was met in fiscal 2014, and the Compensation Committee used negative discretion to determine the actual payout to each Named Executive Officer based on achievement of the EPS goal and each individual’s performance, as described below.

Fiscal 2014 Bonus Targets

At a meeting held in March 2014, the Compensation Committee reviewed the bonus targets under the Bonus Plan for each Named Executive Officer. The Compensation Committee considered the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer, which were informed by the following factors:

- Each executive’s respective responsibilities;
- The bonus targets set by our proxy peers;
- The relationship of the bonus target to other compensation elements; and
- Whether the established bonus targets are effective in motivating our executives to deliver strong performance.

The target bonuses as a percentage of base salary under the Bonus Plan remained unchanged for fiscal 2014.

In executive session at a meeting in March 2014, without the Chief Executive Officer present, the Compensation Committee reviewed Ms. Alber’s bonus target and concluded that her bonus target would remain unchanged for fiscal 2014 as her total cash compensation is properly positioned.

The target bonuses as a percentage of base salary under the Bonus Plan for fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2014 are listed below for each Named Executive Officer.

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Fiscal 2013 Target Bonus (as a Percentage of Base Salary)</u>	<u>Fiscal 2014 Target Bonus (as a Percentage of Base Salary)</u>
Laura J. Alber . . . . .	150%	150%
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	100%	100%
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	100%	100%
Janet M. Hayes . . . . .	100%	100%
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . .	100%	100%

Our Bonus Performance Goal – EPS

The pool from which executive bonuses are paid depends on our achievement of EPS goals established by the Compensation Committee. For fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee set a diluted EPS target of \$3.20 (excluding extraordinary non-recurring charges or unusual items and the effect of changes in accounting principles). The target performance goal required significant improvement over fiscal 2013 results. The threshold goal also required an overall increase in annual EPS for any bonuses to be paid under the Bonus Plan in fiscal 2014. For fiscal 2014, we achieved the diluted EPS target.

Individual Bonus Objectives

If the company meets the minimum threshold EPS goal under the Bonus Plan, individual performance is assessed in order to determine the payout of bonuses. The Compensation Committee believes that the achievement of individual objectives is critical to the overall success of the company and, as such, bonuses are paid to reflect individual achievement. For example, if an executive fails to fully meet some or all individual objectives, the executive’s bonus may be significantly reduced or even eliminated. Conversely, if the objectives are overachieved, awards may be subject to less or no reduction from the maximum amount payable to the executive based on our achievement of the primary positive net cash flow goal described above.

The Compensation Committee decides the bonus amount, if any, for the Chief Executive Officer in an executive session in which the Chief Executive Officer is not present. In March 2015, the Compensation Committee assessed the performance of the Chief Executive Officer through a discussion of her strong performance against the achievement of financial objectives including an increase in net revenues of 7.1%, EPS growth of 14.9%, and over \$350 million returned to stockholders. Additionally the Compensation Committee recognized the Chief Executive Officer's performance against our long-term strategies: strengthening our brands, laying the foundation for global expansion and new business development, investing in our supply chain, and investing in e-commerce as well as technology and infrastructure. The Compensation Committee also reviewed the Chief Executive Officer's performance against our core values, in particular noting the development of a strong culture and exceptional leadership team, and the company's continued achievements in the areas of corporate responsibility and sustainability.

In March 2015, the Compensation Committee reviewed the fiscal 2014 performance of each Named Executive Officer and considered the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer. For fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee approved the bonus payments in the table below under the Bonus Plan for each Named Executive Officer, which were informed by the following factors:

- Achievement of established financial and operating objectives; and
- A qualitative assessment of each executive's leadership accomplishments in the fiscal year (noting that accomplishments that increase stockholder return or that significantly impact future stockholder return are significant factors in the assessment of individual performance) and, in the case of Mr. Connolly, his changed responsibilities in fiscal 2014.

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Fiscal 2014 Bonus Amount*</u>	<u>Fiscal 2014 Actual Bonus (as a Percentage of Target)</u>
Laura J. Alber . . . . .	\$3,250,000	167%
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	\$ 800,000	114%
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	\$1,600,000	145%
Janet M. Hayes . . . . .	\$1,300,000	144%
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . .	\$ 500,000	71%

\* Reflects the Compensation Committee's exercise of discretion to reduce the maximum amount payable to the executive under the Bonus Plan for fiscal 2014 from \$10,000,000 to the amount shown.

*Long-Term Incentives*

The third component of the company's compensation program is long-term equity compensation. The Compensation Committee believes that equity compensation awards encourage our executives to work toward the company's long-term business and strategic objectives and to maximize long-term stockholder returns. In addition, the Compensation Committee believes that equity awards incentivize executives to remain with the company.

In fiscal 2014, equity was granted to our Named Executive Officers in the form of PSUs and RSUs. PSUs were granted with a cumulative three-year earnings growth target and a cliff vesting schedule of 100% after three years. PSUs earned are variable based on actual earnings performance relative to target with no PSUs earned for below threshold performance, 50% of target earned for threshold performance, 100% of target earned for target performance, and 200% of target earned for maximum performance and above. RSUs were granted with a performance-based vesting requirement and a time-based vesting schedule of 25% per year over four years. The Compensation Committee believes that granting equity in the form of RSUs and PSUs drives strong performance, aligns each executive's interests with those of stockholders, and provides an important and powerful retention tool. In determining the long-term incentive awards for fiscal 2014, the Compensation



Committee considered relevant market data, the strong performance of the executive team, and in particular the unvested value of equity awards remaining in fiscal 2014. The Compensation Committee introduced PSUs in order to provide more at-risk compensation to our Named Executive Officers and to further strengthen the link between pay and long-term performance. The target number of PSUs granted to our Chief Executive Officer represented 70% of the total number of equity awards granted in fiscal 2014. For our other Named Executive Officers, the PSUs represented 20% of the total number of equity awards granted in fiscal 2014. The greater proportion of PSUs to RSUs for our Chief Executive Officer reflects Ms. Alber's leadership role in driving our long-term strategic initiatives.

The Compensation Committee established the three-year earnings growth goals for the PSUs by reference to our three-year earnings growth plan, which was presented to and reviewed by our Board of Directors. We believe that the goals were set at challenging levels and are aligned with the long-term interests of our stockholders.

The performance criterion for the fiscal 2014 performance-based RSUs required that the company achieve positive net cash flow provided by operating activities in fiscal 2014 as provided on the company's consolidated statements of cash flows. The performance criterion for fiscal 2014 was achieved.

In determining the type and number of equity awards granted to each Named Executive Officer, the Compensation Committee considered the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer, which were based on:

- The executive's performance and contribution to the profitability of the company;
- The type and number of awards previously granted to each executive;
- The executive's outstanding equity awards;
- The vesting schedule of the executive's outstanding equity awards;
- The relative value of awards offered by peer companies to executives in comparable positions;
- The appropriate mix between long-term incentive awards and other types of compensation, such as base salary and bonus; and
- Additional factors, including increased responsibilities, succession planning and retention strategy.

The Compensation Committee believes that each factor influences the type and number of shares appropriate for each individual and that no one factor is determinative.

In determining the long-term incentive grant for the Chief Executive Officer, the Compensation Committee took into account a number of factors, including the company's performance and the assessment by the Compensation Committee of the Chief Executive Officer's performance.

Equity grants approved by the Compensation Committee in April 2014 were as follows:

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Number of Restricted Stock Units</u>	<u>Number of Performance Stock Units (at Target)</u>
Laura J. Alber . . . . .	47,946	111,874
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	23,014	5,753
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	47,307	11,826
Janet M. Hayes . . . . .	31,964	7,991
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . .	17,030	4,257

*Benefits Provided to Named Executive Officers*

All of the benefits offered to our Named Executive Officers are offered broadly to our full-time associates, except that a limited number of company executives are provided with reimbursement of financial consulting services up to \$12,000 annually. The Compensation Committee believes that providing this assistance is prudent given the complexity of these executives' compensation and financial arrangements. The value of the benefits

offered to each of the Named Executive Officers is detailed in the Other Annual Compensation from Summary Compensation Table on page 54. As noted previously, the company does not provide any income tax gross-ups to Named Executive Officers on any benefits.

### ***Additional Information***

#### *Executive Stock Ownership Guidelines*

The Compensation Committee has established stock ownership guidelines for our Named Executive Officers, among others. Executive stock ownership supports the company's primary objective of creating long-term value for stockholders by aligning the executives' interests directly with those of the company's stockholders. Each executive is expected to maintain this minimum ownership while employed with us. Effective March 2015, the guideline for stock ownership for the Named Executive Officers and certain other executives, other than the Chief Executive Officer, was increased from one times base salary to two times base salary. The current guidelines for stock ownership are:

President and Chief Executive Officer:	Five times Base Salary
Other Named Executive Officers:	Two times Base Salary

The following equity holdings count toward the stock ownership guidelines: shares directly owned by the executive or his or her immediate family members; shares held in trust or any similar entity benefiting the executive or the executive's immediate family; and shares owned through the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. 401(k) Plan. Unexercised stock appreciation rights, unexercised stock options, and unvested restricted stock units or other full-value awards do not count towards the stock ownership guidelines listed above.

Executives covered under the ownership guidelines are required to retain at least 50% of the net after-tax shares received as a result of the release of restricted stock units until the applicable ownership guideline has been achieved. All of our Named Executive Officers meet or exceed the revised stock ownership guidelines or comply with the stock retention requirements for vested restricted stock units that are designed to bring the executive up to the applicable ownership level.

#### *Double-Trigger Change of Control Provisions*

Each of our Named Executive Officers is entitled to double-trigger change of control benefits under either a Management Retention Agreement or our 2012 EVP Level Management Retention Plan, other than our Chief Executive Officer, who is entitled to such benefits under an individual arrangement. None of our Named Executive Officers are provided with any type of golden parachute excise tax gross-up. We believe that our change of control arrangements are competitive compensation practices and meet the company's objectives of:

- Enhancing our ability to retain these key executives as such arrangements are an important component of competitive compensation programs;
- Ensuring that our executives remain objective and fully dedicated to the company's business and strategic objectives at a critical time; and
- Facilitating a smooth transition should a change in control occur.

The Compensation Committee has considered the total potential cost of the change of control arrangements provided to our Named Executive Officers and has determined that such cost is reasonable and reflects the importance of the objectives described above.

#### *Severance Protection for the Chief Executive Officer*

As described in the section titled "Employment Contracts and Termination of Employment and Change-of-Control Arrangements" beginning on page 59, we have entered into a severance arrangement with Ms. Alber providing for certain severance benefits following a change of control in the event of a termination of her employment without cause or her voluntary termination for good reason. The Compensation Committee

implemented this arrangement to ensure that she remains focused on the company's business and strategic objectives rather than potential personal economic exposure under these particular circumstances. The Compensation Committee has considered the total potential cost of her severance benefits and determined them to be reasonable.

*Severance Protection for the President, Williams-Sonoma Brand*

In March 2013, Ms. Hayes became President of the Williams-Sonoma brand, leaving her role as President of Pottery Barn Kids and PBteen. As Ms. Hayes moved to this new role, the Compensation Committee believed it in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders to provide Ms. Hayes with certain employment protections through May 2015. Details of Ms. Hayes' employment agreement are described in the section titled "Employment Contracts and Termination of Employment and Change-of-Control Arrangements" beginning on page 59.

*RSU and PSU Vesting Provisions Upon Retirement*

Grants of RSUs, including the performance-based RSUs granted to our Named Executive Officers, include an acceleration feature that provides for full vesting upon retirement, which is defined as leaving the company at age 70 or later, with a minimum of 15 years of service. Grants of PSUs granted to our Named Executive Officers vest on a pro-rata basis subject to achievement of the applicable performance goals in the event of such a retirement.

*Clawback Policy Following Financial Restatement*

We do not have a formal policy regarding recovery of past payments or awards in the event of a financial restatement, but in such event, the Compensation Committee will review all performance-based compensation and consider initiating recovery of any favorably impacted performance-based compensation in appropriate circumstances. Additional remedial actions could include an executive's termination of employment. Further, we intend to implement any recovery policies required by applicable law, including anticipated SEC rulemaking under the Dodd-Frank Act.

*Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m)*

Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m) disallows the deduction of compensation paid to certain executives in excess of \$1,000,000 unless it is "qualified performance-based compensation." The Compensation Committee reviews the potential impact of Section 162(m) as it constructs the compensation program and in relation to the level of each element of compensation, but reserves the right to pay non-deductible compensation where appropriate to achieve our business objectives. Bonuses awarded to our executives in fiscal 2014 under our Bonus Plan, as well as the equity awards granted to our executives, are intended to qualify as performance-based compensation. However, because of the fact-based nature of the qualified performance-based compensation exception and the limited availability of binding guidance thereunder, we cannot guarantee that any compensation intended to qualify as deductible performance-based compensation so qualifies.

**Compensation Committee Report**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on this review and discussion with management, the Compensation Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement and in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2014.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adrian D.P. Bellamy, Chairman  
Rose Marie Bravo  
Anthony A. Greener  
Lorraine Twohill



## Summary Compensation Table for Fiscal 2014, Fiscal 2013 and Fiscal 2012

This table sets forth the annual and long-term compensation earned by our Named Executive Officers.

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Salary (\$)(1)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)(2)(3)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)(4)	Total (\$)
Laura J. Alber	2014	\$1,409,619	—	\$9,999,937	—	\$3,250,000	\$ 19,660	\$14,679,216
Director, President and Chief Executive Officer	2013	\$1,350,000	—	\$6,999,976	—	\$3,500,000	\$ 72,826	\$11,922,802
	2012	\$1,280,769	—	\$5,960,024	—	\$2,800,000	\$ 69,579	\$10,110,372
Julie P. Whalen	2014	\$ 742,458	—	\$1,799,951	—	\$ 800,000	\$ 68,095	\$ 3,410,504
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	2013	\$ 611,538	—	\$1,349,969	—	\$ 850,000	\$ 18,216	\$ 2,829,723
	2012	\$ 479,231	\$100,000(5)	\$1,877,243	—	\$ 750,000	\$ 36,938	\$ 3,243,412
Sandra N. Stangl	2014	\$1,160,945	—	\$3,699,952	—	\$1,600,000	\$115,202	\$ 6,576,099
President, Pottery Barn Brands	2013	\$ 992,308	—	\$2,499,972	—	\$1,800,000	\$ 45,424	\$ 5,337,704
	2012	\$ 790,385	—	\$1,676,181	—	\$1,600,000	\$ 52,303	\$ 4,118,869
Janet M. Hayes(6)	2014	\$ 933,737	—	\$2,499,984	—	\$1,300,000	\$228,589	\$ 4,962,310
President, Williams-Sonoma Brand	2013	\$ 769,615	—	\$1,799,959	—	\$1,000,000	\$ 30,163	\$ 3,599,737
Patrick J. Connolly	2014	\$ 689,520	—	\$1,331,928	—	\$ 500,000	\$ 33,568	\$ 2,555,016
Director and Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer	2013	\$ 668,510	—	\$1,109,968	—	\$ 750,000	\$ 47,149	\$ 2,575,627
	2012	\$ 640,144	—	\$1,117,516	—	\$ 700,000	\$ 65,411	\$ 2,523,071

- (1) Variances in the salary column versus annual base salary are a result of the timing of paychecks issued in a given fiscal year and, for fiscal 2014, cash paid in lieu of unused vacation.
- (2) Based on the fair market value of awards granted in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013, and fiscal 2012, which is calculated by multiplying the closing price of our stock on the trading day prior to the grant date by the number of units granted. The number of restricted stock units and performance stock unit awards granted is determined by dividing the total monetary value of each award by the closing price of our common stock on the trading day prior to the grant date, rounding down to the nearest whole share.
- (3) For fiscal 2014, the amounts in the stock awards column reflect the fair market value of performance stock unit awards assuming probable achievement of the performance goal at target levels resulting in the following fair market values for the performance stock unit awards: Ms. Alber – \$6,999,956; Ms. Whalen – \$359,965; Ms. Stangl – \$739,953; Ms. Hayes – \$499,997; and Mr. Connolly – \$266,360. Assuming maximum achievement of the performance goal, these values would be: Ms. Alber – \$13,999,912; Ms. Whalen – \$719,930; Ms. Stangl – \$1,479,906; Ms. Hayes – \$999,994; and Mr. Connolly – \$532,720.
- (4) Details are provided in the “Other Annual Compensation from Summary Compensation Table” on page 54.
- (5) Represents a special, discretionary bonus of \$100,000 that was awarded to Ms. Whalen in recognition of her service as the company’s Acting Chief Financial Officer.
- (6) Ms. Hayes became a Named Executive Officer in fiscal 2013.

## Other Annual Compensation from Summary Compensation Table

This table sets forth the compensation and benefits included under “All Other Compensation” in the Summary Compensation Table above.

	Fiscal Year	Life Insurance Premiums(1)	Matching Contribution to the 401(k) Plan(2)	Car Allowance	Executive Financial Services	Dividend Equivalent Payments(3)	Total
Laura J. Alber . . . . .	2014	\$ 3,510	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$2,650	—	\$ 19,660
	2013	\$ 3,883	\$9,000	\$6,000	—	\$ 53,943	\$ 72,826
	2012	\$ 2,340	\$7,577	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$ 41,662	\$ 69,579
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	2014	\$ 1,519	\$7,942	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$ 40,634	\$ 68,095
	2013	\$ 1,401	\$8,365	\$6,000	—	\$ 2,450	\$ 18,216
	2012	\$ 416	\$7,679	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$ 10,843	\$ 36,938
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	2014	\$ 3,510	\$7,942	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$ 85,750	\$115,202
	2013	\$ 3,578	\$9,135	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$ 14,711	\$ 45,424
	2012	\$ 1,829	\$7,452	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$ 25,022	\$ 52,303
Janet M. Hayes . . . . .	2014	\$ 2,938	\$8,065	\$6,000	\$2,908	\$208,678	\$228,589
	2013	\$ 2,774	\$8,638	\$6,000	—	\$ 12,751	\$ 30,163
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . .	2014	\$19,861	\$7,707	\$6,000	—	—	\$ 33,568
	2013	\$20,634	\$8,255	\$6,000	—	\$ 12,260	\$ 47,149
	2012	\$18,715	\$7,331	\$6,000	—	\$ 33,365	\$ 65,411

- (1) Premiums paid by us for term life insurance in excess of \$50,000 for each fiscal year.
- (2) Represents company matching contributions under our 401(k) plan. Similar to our other full-time employees, Named Executive Officers were eligible to participate in our 401(k) plan and received matching contributions from the company of up to \$7,800 during calendar 2014. Matching amounts above this maximum are due to differences between calendar and fiscal year contributions.
- (3) The fiscal 2014 amounts only include (i) dividend equivalent payments which were not previously factored into the grant date fair value reported for an equity award or (ii) dividend equivalent payments for an equity award not disclosed in the executive compensation tables of a prior proxy statement. Excludes the following fiscal 2014 dividend equivalent payments, which were previously factored into the grant date fair value for such disclosed equity award: Ms. Alber – \$1,181,901; Ms. Whalen – \$59,956; Ms. Stangl – \$66,205; Ms. Hayes – \$13,252; and Mr. Connolly – \$78,627.

## Grants of Plan-Based Awards

This table sets forth certain information regarding all grants of plan-based awards made to the Named Executive Officers during fiscal 2014.

	Grant Date	Compensation Committee Approval Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)
			Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)(1)(2)	Maximum (\$)(2)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)		
Laura J. Alber . . . . .	—	—	—	\$1,950,000	\$10,000,000	—	—	—	—	
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,946(3)	\$2,999,981
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014(4)	—	—	—	55,937	111,874	223,748	—	\$6,999,956(5)
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	—	—	—	\$ 700,000	\$10,000,000	—	—	—	—	—
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014	—	—	—	—	—	—	23,014(3)	\$1,439,986
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014(4)	—	—	—	2,876	5,753	11,506	—	\$ 359,965(5)
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	—	—	—	\$1,100,000	\$10,000,000	—	—	—	—	—
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,307(3)	\$2,959,999
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014(4)	—	—	—	5,913	11,826	23,652	—	\$ 739,953(5)
Janet M. Hayes . . . . .	—	—	—	\$ 900,000	\$10,000,000	—	—	—	—	—
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,964(3)	\$1,999,987
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014(4)	—	—	—	3,995	7,991	15,982	—	\$ 499,997(5)
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . .	—	—	—	\$ 700,000	\$10,000,000	—	—	—	—	—
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,030(3)	\$1,065,567
	4/22/2014	4/18/2014(4)	—	—	—	2,128	4,257	8,514	—	\$ 266,360(5)

- (1) Target potential payment for each eligible executive pursuant to our established incentive targets.
- (2) To ensure deductibility under our stockholder-approved 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan (intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m)), the Compensation Committee specified a primary performance goal. For fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee established the primary performance goal for the 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan as positive net cash provided by operating activities as provided on the company's consolidated statements of cash flows. The Compensation Committee also set a secondary performance goal to guide its use of discretion in determining whether to reduce bonus amounts from the maximum available under the 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan; the Compensation Committee typically expects to pay bonuses at target levels if the secondary performance goal is fully met. For fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee set the secondary performance goal as an earnings per share target of \$3.20 (excluding extraordinary non-recurring charges, and including any amounts payable to covered employees under the 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan). As further described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 38, in the first quarter of fiscal 2015, the Compensation Committee determined that the 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan's primary and secondary performance goals were achieved, but the Compensation Committee elected to apply its discretion in determining to reduce the actual amount to be paid to the Named Executive Officers under the 2001 Incentive Bonus Plan below the maximum potential payment.
- (3) Grants of restricted stock units.
- (4) Grants of performance stock units.
- (5) Target potential payout of the performance stock units for each eligible executive pursuant to our established performance criterion.

## Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following tables set forth information regarding equity awards held by our Named Executive Officers on February 1, 2015.

	Option Awards(1)				
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Unearned Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date
Laura J. Alber . . . . .	89,639	46,546(2)	—	\$40.87	4/5/2018
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	6,349	2,116(2)	—	\$40.87	4/5/2018
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	38,085	12,695(2)	—	\$40.87	4/5/2018
Janet M. Hayes . . . . .	11,002	11,002(2)	—	\$40.87	4/5/2018
Patrick J. Connolly . . .	31,737	10,578(2)	—	\$40.87	4/5/2018
	9,375	—	—	\$27.72	3/25/2020
	100,000	—	—	\$ 8.56	11/7/2018
	50,000	—	—	\$40.44	3/15/2016
	40,000	—	—	\$38.84	5/27/2015

(1) Includes grants of options and stock-settled stock appreciation rights.

(2) Stock-settled stock appreciation rights vest at the rate of 25% of the total number of shares subject to the stock-settled stock appreciation rights per year, with a remaining vesting date of April 5, 2015.

**Stock Awards**

	<u>Number of Shares or Units of Stock that have not Vested (#)</u>	<u>Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock that have not Vested (\$)(1)</u>	<u>Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights that have not Vested (#)</u>	<u>Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights that have not Vested (\$)</u>
Laura J. Alber . . . . .	47,946(2)	\$3,751,775	—	—
	—	—	111,874(3)	\$8,754,141
	98,481(4)	\$7,706,138	—	—
	80,173(5)	\$6,273,537	—	—
	33,505(6)	\$2,621,766	—	—
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	23,014(2)	\$1,800,846	—	—
	—	—	5,753(3)	\$ 450,172
	18,993(4)	\$1,486,202	—	—
	21,375(7)	\$1,672,594	—	—
	5,010(5)	\$ 392,033	—	—
	1,523(8)	\$ 119,175	—	—
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	47,307(2)	\$3,701,773	—	—
	—	—	11,826(3)	\$ 925,385
	35,172(4)	\$2,752,209	—	—
	22,548(5)	\$1,764,381	—	—
	9,138(6)	\$ 715,049	—	—
Janet M. Hayes . . . . .	31,964(2)	\$2,501,183	—	—
	—	—	7,991(3)	\$ 625,296
	25,323(4)	\$1,981,525	—	—
	17,538(5)	\$1,372,349	—	—
	7,920(6)	\$ 619,740	—	—
Patrick J. Connolly . . .	17,030(2)	\$1,332,598	—	—
	—	—	4,257(3)	\$ 333,110
	15,616(4)	\$1,221,952	—	—
	15,033(5)	\$1,176,332	—	—
	7,615(6)	\$ 595,874	—	—

- (1) Based on a stock price of \$78.25, the closing price of our common stock on January 30, 2015, the last business day of fiscal 2014.
- (2) Represents restricted stock units granted on April 22, 2014. The restricted stock units vest as follows:
  - (i) 25% of the units vest on April 22, 2015; (ii) 25% of the units vest on April 22, 2016; (iii) 25% of the units vest on April 22, 2017; and (iv) 25% of the units vest on April 22, 2018, each subject to continued service and a performance criterion of positive net cash flow provided by operating activities (excluding any non-recurring charges) for fiscal 2014 as provided on the company's consolidated statements of cash flows, which has been met. In addition, upon vesting, the executive receives a cash payment equal to dividends declared between the grant date and the vesting date.
- (3) Represents performance stock units granted on April 22, 2014. The performance stock units vest on April 22, 2017, subject to continued service and achievement of performance criterion. The shares above reflect a target payout of 100%. This award has a potential payout of 200% if the maximum performance criterion is achieved and 50% if the threshold performance criterion is achieved.
- (4) Represents restricted stock units granted on April 26, 2013. The restricted stock units vest as follows:
  - (i) 25% of the units vested on April 26, 2014; (ii) 25% of the units vest on April 26, 2015; (iii) 25% of the units vest on April 26, 2016; and (iv) 25% of the units vest on April 26, 2017, each subject to continued service and a performance criterion of positive net cash flow provided by operating activities (excluding any non-recurring charges) for fiscal 2013 as provided on the company's consolidated statements of cash flows, which has been met. In addition, upon vesting, the executive receives a cash payment equal to dividends declared between the grant date and the vesting date.



- (5) Represents restricted stock units granted on April 16, 2012. The restricted stock units vest as follows: (i) 50% of the units vested on April 16, 2014; and (ii) 50% of the units vest on April 16, 2016, each subject to continued service and a performance criterion of positive net cash flow provided by operating activities (excluding any non-recurring charges) for fiscal 2012 as provided on the company's consolidated statements of cash flows, which has been met. In addition, upon vesting, the executive receives a cash payment equal to dividends declared between the grant date and the vesting date.
- (6) Represents restricted stock units granted on April 5, 2011. The restricted stock units vest as follows: (i) 50% of the units vested on April 5, 2013; and (ii) 50% of the units vest on April 5, 2015, each subject to continued service and a performance criterion of positive net cash flow provided by operating activities (excluding any non-recurring charges) for fiscal 2011 as provided on the company's consolidated statements of cash flows, which has been met. In addition, upon vesting, the executive receives a cash payment equal to dividends declared between the grant date and the vesting date.
- (7) Represents restricted stock units granted on July 30, 2012. The restricted stock units vest as follows: (i) 50% of the units vested on July 30, 2014; and (ii) 50% of the units vest on July 30, 2016, each subject to continued service and a performance criterion of positive net cash flow provided by operating activities (excluding any non-recurring charges) in the last two fiscal quarters of fiscal 2012 as provided on the company's consolidated statements of cash flows, which has been met. In addition, upon vesting, the executive receives a cash payment equal to dividends declared between the grant date and the vesting date.
- (8) Represents restricted stock units granted on April 5, 2011. The restricted stock units vest as follows: (i) 50% of the units vested on April 5, 2013; and (ii) 50% of the units vest on April 5, 2015, each subject to continued service. In addition, upon vesting, the executive receives a cash payment equal to dividends declared between the grant date and the vesting date.

### Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table sets forth information regarding exercises and vesting of equity awards held by our Named Executive Officers during fiscal 2014.

	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise \$(1)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting \$(2)
Laura J. Alber	200,000	\$7,608,000	392,998	\$25,613,608
Julie P. Whalen	—	—	41,465	\$ 2,740,078
Sandra N. Stangl	—	—	59,270	\$ 3,794,674
Janet M. Hayes	23,256	\$ 590,847	75,978	\$ 4,935,430
Patrick J. Connolly	110,000	\$5,182,000	31,487	\$ 2,008,100

- (1) The value realized upon exercise is calculated as the difference between the closing price of our stock on the day prior to the exercise date and the applicable exercise price of the options multiplied by the number of shares exercised.
- (2) The value realized upon vesting is calculated as the closing price of our stock on the day prior to the vesting date multiplied by the number of units vested.

### Pension Benefits

None of our Named Executive Officers received any pension benefits during fiscal 2014.

### Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

None of our Named Executive Officers contributed to or received earnings from a company nonqualified deferred compensation plan during fiscal 2014.

## Employment Contracts and Termination of Employment and Change-of-Control Arrangements

We have entered into a management retention agreement with each of our Named Executive Officers. The retention agreement with each of Ms. Whalen, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Hayes and Ms. Stangl has an initial two-year term and will be automatically extended for one year following the initial term unless either party provides notice of non-extension. If we enter into a definitive agreement with a third party providing for a “change of control,” each retention agreement will be automatically extended for 18 months following the change of control. In addition, effective November 1, 2012, we adopted the 2012 EVP Level Management Retention Plan, or the EVP Retention Plan. The EVP Retention Plan will replace the individual management retention agreements that we previously entered into with each Named Executive Officer, other than the agreement entered into with Ms. Alber, which remains in effect. The EVP Retention Plan provides that the executives will automatically become participants in the plan upon the later of (i) the effective date of the EVP Retention Plan, or (ii) the lapse of the term of such executive’s management retention agreement with the company in existence on the effective date of the EVP Retention Plan. The EVP Retention Plan will remain in effect through November 15, 2015, unless earlier terminated by the company in accordance with the plan. The EVP Retention Plan provides for substantially the same severance benefits as the individual agreements.

We entered into an amended and restated management retention agreement with Ms. Alber on September 6, 2012. The management retention agreement restates substantially all of the material terms of the prior agreement, with the exception of extending the term of the agreement through September 7, 2033. All other terms are substantially the same as the EVP Retention Plan.

If within 18 months following a change of control, an executive’s employment is terminated by us without “cause,” or by the executive for “good reason,” then (i) 100% of such executive’s outstanding equity awards, including full value awards, with performance-based vesting where the payout is a set number or zero depending on whether the performance metric is obtained, will immediately become fully vested, except that if a full value award has performance-based vesting and the performance period has not been completed and the number of shares that can be earned is variable based on the performance level, a pro-rata portion of such executive’s outstanding equity awards will immediately become fully vested at the target performance level, and (ii) in lieu of continued employment benefits (other than as required by law), such executive will be entitled to receive payments of \$3,000 per month for 12 months.

In addition, if, within 18 months following a change of control, the executive’s employment is terminated by us without “cause,” or by the executive for “good reason,” such executive will be entitled to receive (i) severance equal to 200% of such executive’s base salary as in effect immediately prior to the change of control or such executive’s termination, whichever is greater, with such severance to be paid over 24 months, and (ii) 200% of the average annual bonus received by such executive in the last 36 months prior to the termination, with such severance to be paid over 24 months.

Each executive’s receipt of the severance benefits discussed above is contingent on such executive signing and not revoking a release of claims against us, such executive’s continued compliance with our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (including its provisions relating to confidential information and non-solicitation), such executive not accepting employment with one of our competitors, and such executive’s continued non-disparagement of us. In the event that the severance payments and other benefits payable to an executive under a retention agreement constitute a “parachute payment” under Section 280G of the U.S. tax code and would be subject to the applicable excise tax, then the executive’s severance payments and other benefits will be either (i) delivered in full or (ii) delivered to a lesser extent such that no portion of the benefits are subject to the excise tax, whichever results in the receipt by such executive on an after-tax basis of the greatest amount of benefits.

For purposes of the EVP Retention Plan, “cause” means: (i) an act of dishonesty made by the executive in connection with his or her responsibilities as an employee; (ii) the executive’s conviction of, or plea of nolo contendere to, a felony or any crime involving fraud, embezzlement or any other act of moral turpitude; (iii) the

executive's gross misconduct; (iv) the executive's unauthorized use or disclosure of any proprietary information or trade secrets of the company or any other party to whom the executive owes an obligation of nondisclosure as a result of the executive's relationship with the company; (v) the executive's willful breach of any obligations under any written agreement or covenant with the company or breach of the company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; or (vi) the executive's continued failure to perform his or her employment duties after he or she has received a written demand of performance which specifically sets forth the factual basis for the belief that the executive has not substantially performed his or her duties and has failed to cure such non-performance within 30 days after receiving such notice.

For purposes of the EVP Retention Plan, "change of control" means the occurrence of any of the following events: (i) a change in the ownership of the company which occurs on the date that any one person, or more than one person acting as a group ("Person"), acquires ownership of the stock of the company that, together with the stock held by such Person, constitutes more than 50% of the total voting power of the stock of the company; provided, however, that for purposes of this subsection (i), the acquisition of additional stock by any one Person, who is considered to own more than 50% of the total voting power of the stock of the company will not be considered a change of control; or (ii) a change in the effective control of the company which occurs on the date that a majority of members of the Board of Directors is replaced during any 12-month period by directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors prior to the date of the appointment or election; provided, however, that for purposes of this subsection (ii), if any Person is considered to effectively control the company, the acquisition of additional control of the company by the same Person will not be considered a change of control; or (iii) a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the company's assets which occurs on the date that any Person acquires (or has acquired during the 12-month period ending on the date of the most recent acquisition by such person or persons) assets from the company that have a total gross fair market value equal to or more than 50% of the total gross fair market value of all of the assets of the company immediately prior to such acquisition or acquisitions; provided, however, that for purposes of this subsection (iii), the following will not constitute a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the company's assets: (A) a transfer to an entity that is controlled by the company's stockholders immediately after the transfer, or (B) a transfer of assets by the company to: (1) a stockholder of the company (immediately before the asset transfer) in exchange for or with respect to the company's stock, (2) an entity, 50% or more of the total value or voting power of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by the company, (3) a Person that owns, directly or indirectly, 50% or more of the total value or voting power of all the outstanding stock of the company, or (4) an entity, at least 50% of the total value or voting power of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by a Person. For purposes of this subsection (iii), gross fair market value means the value of the assets of the company, or the value of the assets being disposed of, determined without regard to any liabilities associated with such assets. For purposes of this definition, persons will be considered to be acting as a group if they are owners of a corporation that enters into a merger, consolidation, purchase or acquisition of stock, or similar business transaction with the company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction shall not be deemed a change of control unless the transaction qualifies as a change in the ownership of the company, change in the effective control of the company or a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the company's assets, each within the meaning of Section 409A.

For purposes of the EVP Retention Plan, "good reason" means, without the executive's consent, (i) a reduction in his or her annual base salary (except pursuant to a reduction generally applicable to senior executives of the company), (ii) a material diminution of his or her authority or responsibilities, (iii) a reduction of the executive's title, (iv) the executive ceasing to report directly to a specified individual or the Board of the company or the entity holding all or substantially all of the company's assets following a change of control, or (v) relocation of the executive to a location more than 50 miles from the company's San Francisco, California main office location. In addition, upon any such voluntary termination for good reason the executive must provide written notice to the company of the existence of one or more of the above conditions within 90 days of its initial existence and the company must be provided with at least 30 days to remedy the condition.



### *Acceleration of PSUs*

As described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, PSUs were granted for the first time in fiscal 2014. The PSUs vest on a pro-rata basis subject to achievement of the applicable performance goals in the event of a Named Executive Officer's death, "disability," or "retirement." The PSUs also provide that upon a "change in control," the performance goals shall be deemed satisfied at target and, for purposes of any severance vesting provisions, the PSUs will generally be treated in the same manner as a time-based restricted stock unit award covering the number of shares based on such deemed target performance.

For purposes of the PSUs, "disability" means the occurrence of any of the following events: (i) the executive being unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months; (ii) the executive is, by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than three months under the company's accident and health plan covering the company's employees; or (iii) the executive has been determined to be totally disabled by the Social Security Administration.

For purposes of the PSUs, "retirement" means the executive's termination of employment for a reason other than "cause," "disability," or death subsequent to the executive having attained age 70 and having been employed by the company for at least 15 years. Currently, none of the Named Executive Officers satisfy the requirements for "retirement."

For purposes of the PSUs, "cause" means: (i) embezzlement, theft or misappropriation by the executive of any property of any of the company; (ii) the executive's breach of any fiduciary duty to the company; (iii) the executive's failure or refusal to comply with laws or regulations applicable to the company and their businesses or the policies of the company governing the conduct of its employees or directors; (iv) the executive's gross incompetence in the performance of your job duties; (v) the executive's commission of a felony or of any crime involving moral turpitude, fraud or misrepresentation; (vi) the executive's failure to perform duties consistent with a commercially reasonable standard of care; (vii) the executive's failure or refusal to perform job duties or to perform specific directives of the executive's supervisor or designee, or the senior officers or the Board; or (viii) any gross negligence or willful misconduct by the executive resulting in loss to the company or, or damage to the reputation of the company.

For purposes of the PSUs, "change in control" generally has the same meaning of "change in control" under the EVP Retention Plan or in the Named Executive Officer's employment agreement, as applicable.

### *Laura J. Alber*

We entered into an amended and restated employment agreement with Laura J. Alber, effective as of September 6, 2012, which amended and restated the prior agreement entered into with Ms. Alber, effective May 26, 2010. The employment agreement restates substantially all of the material terms of the prior agreement, with the exception of extending the term of the agreement through September 7, 2033 and referencing Ms. Alber's current base salary of \$1,300,000. If we terminate Ms. Alber's employment without "cause," if she terminates her employment with us for "good reason," or if her employment is terminated due to her death or "disability," she will be entitled to receive (i) severance equal to 24 months of her base salary to be paid over 24 months, (ii) a lump sum payment equal to 200% of the average annual bonus received by her in the last 36 months prior to the termination, (iii) in lieu of continued employment benefits (other than as required by law), payments of \$3,000 per month for 18 months, and (iv) accelerated vesting of her then-outstanding equity awards that vest solely based upon Ms. Alber's continued service by up to an additional 18 months' of vesting credit, and if the awards were subject to cliff-vesting of more than one year, the cliff-vesting provision will be lifted and vesting credit given as if the award had been subject to monthly vesting, and equity awards subject to performance-based vesting will remain outstanding through the date upon which the achievement of the

applicable performance milestones are certified with such awards paid out, subject to the attainment of the applicable performance milestones, to the same extent and at the same time as if Ms. Alber had remained employed through the 18-month anniversary of her termination date. Ms. Alber's receipt of the severance benefits discussed above is contingent on her signing and not revoking a release of claims against us, her continued compliance with our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (including its provisions relating to confidential information and non-solicitation), her not accepting employment with one of our competitors, and her continued non-disparagement of us.

For purposes of the employment agreement with Ms. Alber, "cause" is defined as (i) an act of dishonesty made by her in connection with her responsibilities as an employee, (ii) Ms. Alber's conviction of or plea of nolo contendere to, a felony or any crime involving fraud, embezzlement or any other act of moral turpitude, (iii) Ms. Alber's gross misconduct, (iv) Ms. Alber's unauthorized use or disclosure of any proprietary information or trade secrets of the company or any other party to whom she owes an obligation of nondisclosure as a result of her relationship with the company, (v) Ms. Alber's willful breach of any obligations under any written agreement or covenant with the company or breach of the company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, or (vi) Ms. Alber's continued failure to perform her employment duties after she has received a written demand of performance from the Board which specifically sets forth the factual basis for the Board's belief that she has not substantially performed her duties and has failed to cure such non-performance to the company's satisfaction within 30 days after receiving such notice.

For purposes of the employment agreement with Ms. Alber, "disability" means Ms. Alber (i) is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or (ii) is, by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than 3 months under an accident and health plan covering company employees.

For purposes of the employment agreement with Ms. Alber, "good reason" is defined as, without Ms. Alber's consent, (i) a reduction in her base salary (except pursuant to a reduction generally applicable to senior executives of the company), (ii) a material diminution of her authority or responsibilities, (iii) a reduction of Ms. Alber's title, (iv) Ms. Alber ceasing to report directly to the Board of Directors, or (v) the Board of Directors failing to re-nominate Ms. Alber for Board membership when her Board term expires while she is employed by the company. In addition, upon any such voluntary termination for good reason, Ms. Alber must provide written notice to the company of the existence of one or more of the above conditions within 90 days of its initial existence and the company must be provided with at least 30 days to remedy the condition.

The following table describes the payments and/or benefits which would have been owed by us to Ms. Alber as of February 1, 2015 if her employment had been terminated in various situations.

<u>Compensation and Benefits</u>	<u>For Good Reason</u>	<u>Involuntary Without Cause</u>	<u>Change-of-Control</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Disability</u>
Base Salary(1) . . . . .	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000(2)	\$ 2,600,000(2)
Bonus Payment(3) . . . . .	\$ 5,933,333	\$ 5,933,333	\$ 5,933,333	\$ 5,933,333(2)	\$ 5,933,333(2)
Equity Awards . . . . .	\$16,414,797(4)	\$16,414,797(4)	\$30,847,247(5)	\$16,414,797(4)	\$16,414,797(4)
Health Care Benefits(6) . . . . .	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000

(1) Represents 200%, or 24 months, of Ms. Alber's base salary as of February 1, 2015.

(2) Will be reduced by the amount of any payments Ms. Alber receives through company-paid insurance policies.

(3) Represents 200% of the average annual bonus received by Ms. Alber in the 36-month period prior to February 1, 2015.

- (4) Represents the sum of (i) \$14,674,907 for acceleration of vesting of 187,539 restricted stock units and (ii) \$1,739,890 for acceleration of vesting of 46,546 shares underlying outstanding option awards. Value is based on a stock price of \$78.25, the closing price of our common stock on January 30, 2015, the last business day of fiscal 2014. Does not include any amount for the acceleration of vesting of performance stock units because the acceleration of any performance stock units remains subject to achievement of the performance goals, as certified by our Compensation Committee.
- (5) Represents the sum of (i) \$20,353,216 for acceleration of vesting of 260,105 restricted stock units, (ii) \$1,739,890 for acceleration of vesting of 46,546 shares underlying outstanding option awards and (iii) \$8,754,141 for acceleration of vesting of 111,874 performance stock units. Value is based on a stock price of \$78.25, the closing price of our common stock on January 30, 2015, the last business day of fiscal 2014.
- (6) Based on a monthly payment of \$3,000 to be paid by the company for 18 months or 12 months, as applicable, in lieu of continued employment benefits.

*Janet M. Hayes*

We entered into an employment agreement with Janet M. Hayes, effective as of August 9, 2013, in connection with her appointment as President, Williams-Sonoma Brand. The agreement has an initial term through May 3, 2015. The agreement provides that Ms. Hayes shall receive a base salary of \$760,000 per year and a bonus for fiscal 2013 of at least \$700,000, subject to the company's achievement of target EPS under the company's Bonus Plan.

If we terminate Ms. Hayes' employment without "cause," if she terminates her employment with us for "good reason," or if her employment is terminated due to her death or "disability," she will be entitled to receive (i) severance equal to 12 months of her base salary to be paid over 12 months, (ii) a lump sum payment equal to 100% of the average annual bonus received by her in the last 36 months prior to the termination, (iii) in lieu of continued employment benefits (other than as required by law), payments of \$3,000 per month for 18 months, and (iv) accelerated vesting of her then-outstanding equity awards that vest solely based upon Ms. Hayes' continued service by up to an additional 18 months' of vesting credit, and equity awards subject to performance-based vesting will remain outstanding through the date upon which the achievement of the applicable performance milestones are certified with such awards paid out, subject to the attainment of the applicable performance milestones, to the same extent and at the same time as if Ms. Hayes had remained employed through the 18-month anniversary of her termination date. Ms. Hayes' receipt of the severance benefits discussed above is contingent on her signing and not revoking a release of claims against us, her continued compliance with our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (including its provisions relating to confidential information and non-solicitation), her not accepting employment with one of our competitors, and her continued non-disparagement of us.

For purposes of the employment agreement with Ms. Hayes, "cause" is defined as (i) an act of dishonesty made by her in connection with her responsibilities as an employee, (ii) Ms. Hayes' conviction of or plea of nolo contendere to, a felony or any crime involving fraud, embezzlement or any other act of moral turpitude, (iii) Ms. Hayes' gross misconduct, (iv) Ms. Hayes' unauthorized use or disclosure of any proprietary information or trade secrets of the company or any other party to whom she owes an obligation of nondisclosure as a result of her relationship with the company, (v) Ms. Hayes' willful breach of any obligations under any written agreement or covenant with the company or breach of the company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, or (vi) Ms. Hayes' continued failure to perform her employment duties after she has received a written demand of performance from the chief executive officer which specifically sets forth the factual basis for the chief executive officers' belief that she has not substantially performed her duties and has failed to cure such non-performance to the company's satisfaction within 30 days after receiving such notice.

For purposes of the employment agreement with Ms. Hayes, "disability" means Ms. Hayes (i) is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment

which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or (ii) is, by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than 3 months under an accident and health plan covering company employees.

For purposes of the employment agreement with Ms. Hayes, “good reason” is defined as, without Ms. Hayes’ consent, (i) a reduction in her base salary (except pursuant to a reduction generally applicable to senior executives of the company), (ii) a material diminution of her authority or responsibilities, (iii) a reduction of Ms. Hayes’ title, or (iv) Ms. Hayes ceasing to report directly to the chief executive officer. In addition, upon any such voluntary termination for good reason, Ms. Hayes must provide written notice to the company of the existence of one or more of the above conditions within 90 days of its initial existence and the company must be provided with at least 30 days to remedy the condition.

The following table describes the payments and/or benefits which would have been owed by us to Ms. Hayes as of February 1, 2015 if her employment had been terminated in various situations.

<b>Compensation and Benefits</b>	<b>For Good Reason</b>	<b>Involuntary Without Cause</b>	<b>Change-of-Control</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Disability</b>
Base Salary(1) . . . . .	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	\$1,800,000	\$ 900,000(2)	\$ 900,000(2)
Bonus Payment(3) . . . . .	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$1,600,000	\$ 800,000(2)	\$ 800,000(2)
Equity Awards . . . . .	\$3,889,487(4)	\$3,889,487(4)	\$7,511,347(5)	\$3,889,487(4)(6)	\$3,889,487(4)(6)
Health Care Benefits(7) . . . . .	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000

- (1) Represents (i) 100%, or 12 months, or (ii) 200%, or 24 months, as applicable, of Ms. Hayes’ base salary as of February 1, 2015.
- (2) Will be reduced by the amount of any payments Ms. Hayes receives through company-paid insurance policies.
- (3) Represents (i) 100%, or 12 months, or (ii) 200%, or 24 months, as applicable, of the average annual bonus received by Ms. Hayes in the 36-month period prior to February 1, 2015.
- (4) Represents the sum of (i) \$3,478,232 for acceleration of vesting of 44,450 restricted stock units and (ii) \$411,255 for acceleration of vesting of 11,002 shares underlying outstanding option awards. Value is based on a stock price of \$78.25, the closing price of our common stock on January 30, 2015, the last business day of fiscal 2014.
- (5) Represents the sum of (i) \$6,474,796 for acceleration of vesting of 82,745 restricted stock units, (ii) \$411,255 for acceleration of vesting of 11,002 shares underlying outstanding option awards and (iii) \$625,296 for acceleration of 7,991 performance stock units. Value is based on a stock price of \$78.25, the closing price of our common stock on January 30, 2015, the last business day of fiscal 2014.
- (6) Does not include any amount for the acceleration of vesting of performance stock units upon death or disability because the acceleration of any performance stock units upon death or disability remains subject to achievement of the performance goals, as certified by our Compensation Committee.
- (7) Based on a monthly payment of \$3,000 to be paid by the company for 18 months or 12 months, as applicable, in lieu of continued employment benefits.

*All Other Named Executive Officers*

As described above, the other Named Executive Officers are generally not entitled to severance benefits in connection with their termination for good reason, involuntary termination, death or disability, except that the Named Executive Officers are eligible for the pro-rata accelerated vesting of performance stock units in the event of death, disability and retirement, subject to the achievement of performance goals. The following table describes the payments and/or benefits which would have been owed by us to the Named Executive Officers as

of February 1, 2015 under the EVP Retention Plan (and individual agreements) if within 18 months following a change of control of the company, the executive's employment was terminated by us without cause, or by the executive for good reason.

**Potential Double-Trigger Change in Control Benefits**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Base Salary(1)</u>	<u>Bonus Payment(2)</u>	<u>Equity Awards(3)(4)</u>	<u>Health Care Benefits(5)</u>
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	\$1,400,000	\$1,233,333	\$ 6,000,117(6)	\$36,000
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	\$2,200,000	\$3,066,667	\$10,333,335(7)	\$36,000
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . .	\$1,400,000	\$1,433,333	\$ 5,055,271(8)	\$36,000

- (1) Represents 200% of each Named Executive Officer's base salary as of February 1, 2015.
- (2) Represents 200% of the average annual bonus received by each Named Executive Officer in the 36-month period prior to February 1, 2015.
- (3) Value is based on a stock price of \$78.25, the closing price of our common stock on January 30, 2015, the last business day of fiscal 2014.
- (4) Does not include any amount for the acceleration of vesting of performance stock units upon death or disability since the acceleration of any performance stock units upon death or disability remains subject to achievement of the performance goals, as certified by our Compensation Committee.
- (5) Based on a monthly payment of \$3,000 to be paid by the company for 12 months in lieu of continued employment benefits.
- (6) Represents the sum of (i) \$5,470,849 for acceleration of vesting of 69,915 restricted stock units, (ii) \$79,096 for acceleration of vesting of 2,116 shares underlying outstanding option awards and (iii) \$450,172 for acceleration of vesting of 5,753 performance stock units.
- (7) Represents the sum of (i) \$8,933,411 for acceleration of vesting of 114,165 restricted stock units, (ii) \$474,539 for acceleration of vesting of 12,695 shares underlying outstanding option awards and (iii) \$925,385 for acceleration of vesting of 11,826 performance stock units.
- (8) Represents the sum of (i) \$4,326,755 for acceleration of vesting of 55,294 restricted stock units, (ii) \$395,406 for acceleration of vesting of 10,578 shares underlying outstanding option awards and (iii) \$333,110 for acceleration of vesting of 4,257 performance stock units.

## CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

We have policies in our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that provide that associates must not engage in any transaction when an associate may face a real or perceived conflict of interest with the company. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is distributed to all employees on an annual basis and made available throughout the year in our internal document database. It is also available on our website and in print to any stockholder who requests it. In addition, we have in place policies and procedures with respect to related person transactions that provide that our executive officers, directors, director nominees and principal stockholders, as well as their immediate family members and affiliates, are not permitted to enter into a related party transaction with us unless (i) the transaction is approved or ratified by our Audit and Finance Committee or the disinterested members of our Board or (ii) the transaction involves the service of one of our executive officers or directors or any related compensation, is reportable under Item 402 of Regulation S-K and is approved by our Compensation Committee.

For the purposes of our related party transaction policy, “related party transaction” means any transaction in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 in any calendar year and in which any of our executive officers, directors, director nominees and principal stockholders, as well as their immediate family members and affiliates, had, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest, other than transactions available to all of our employees.

It is our policy to approve related party transactions only when it has been determined that such transaction is in, or is not inconsistent with, our best interests and those of our stockholders, including situations where we may obtain products or services of a nature, quantity or quality, or on other terms, that are not readily available from alternative sources or when the transaction is on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in arm’s length dealings with an unrelated third party.

### *Memphis-Based Distribution Facilities*

Our Memphis-based distribution facilities include an operating lease entered into in July 1983 for a distribution facility in Memphis, Tennessee. The lessor is a general partnership (“Partnership 1”) comprised of the estate of W. Howard Lester (“Mr. Lester”), our former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, and the estate of James A. McMahan (“Mr. McMahan”), a former Director Emeritus and significant stockholder. Partnership 1 does not have operations separate from the leasing of this distribution facility and does not have lease agreements with any unrelated third parties. The terms of the lease automatically renewed until the bonds that financed the construction of the facility were fully repaid in December 2010, at which time we continued to rent the facility on a month-to-month basis. We subsequently agreed to lease the facilities from Partnership 1 through February 2014, at which time the lease was terminated and we vacated the facility. We made annual rental payments of approximately \$28,000 in fiscal 2014, and \$618,000 in both fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012.

Our other Memphis-based distribution facility includes an operating lease entered into in August 1990 for another distribution facility that is adjoined to the Partnership 1 facility in Memphis, Tennessee. The lessor is a general partnership (“Partnership 2”) comprised of the estate of Mr. Lester, the estate of Mr. McMahan and two unrelated parties. Partnership 2 does not have operations separate from the leasing of this distribution facility and does not have lease agreements with any unrelated third parties. The term of the lease automatically renews on an annual basis until the bonds that financed the construction of the facility are fully repaid in August 2015. As of February 1, 2015, \$1,968,000 was outstanding under the Partnership 2 bonds. We made annual rental payments of approximately \$2,432,000, \$2,448,000 and \$2,473,000 including applicable taxes, insurance and maintenance expenses in fiscal 2014, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively.

As of February 1, 2015, Partnership 2 qualifies as a variable interest entity and is consolidated by us due to its related party relationship and our obligation to renew the lease until the bonds are fully repaid. As such, as of February 1, 2015, our Consolidated Balance Sheet includes \$10,658,000 in assets (primarily buildings), \$1,968,000 in debt and \$8,690,000 in other long-term liabilities related to the consolidation of the Partnership 2 distribution facility.

### *Indemnification Agreements*

We have indemnification agreements with our directors and executive officers. These agreements, among other things, require us to indemnify each director and executive officer to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, including coverage of expenses such as attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and settlement amounts incurred by the director or executive officer in any action or proceeding, including any action or proceeding by or in right of us, arising out of the person's services as a director or executive officer.

### **SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires our directors, executive officers and holders of more than 10% of our common stock to file reports regarding their ownership and changes in ownership of our stock with the SEC. Based upon (i) copies of Section 16(a) reports that we received from such persons for their fiscal 2014 transactions and (ii) information provided to us by them, we believe that all reporting requirements under Section 16(a) were met in a timely manner by the persons who were executive officers, members of the Board of Directors or greater than 10% stockholders during such fiscal year, except for Patrick J. Connolly who filed a Form 4 in March 2015 to report seven unreported gifts between December 1993 and December 2012 and five unreported sales between March 1998 and September 2002.

## SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS AND MANAGEMENT

This table sets forth information regarding the ownership of our common stock as of March 30, 2015 by:

- each person known to us to own more than 5% of our outstanding common stock;
- each director nominee;
- the Named Executive Officers; and
- all current executive officers and directors as a group.

Unless otherwise noted, the persons listed below have sole voting and investment power. In addition, unless otherwise noted, the address of each stockholder noted in the following table is c/o Williams-Sonoma, Inc., 3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109. Information regarding our non-management 5% stockholders is derived from the most recently available 13G filings.

<u>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</u>	<u>Position with Company</u>	<u>Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership</u>			<u>Percent of Class(2)</u>
		<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Awards Exercisable or Vesting within 60 Days(1)</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Survivor's Trust created under the McMahan Family Trust dtd 1/25/84 . . . 2 Oakmont Drive Los Angeles, CA 90049	—	6,119,466(3)	—	6,119,466(3)	6.7%
BlackRock, Inc. . . . . 40 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street New York, NY 10022	—	5,387,245(4)	—	5,387,245(4)	5.9%
Capital Research Global Investors. . . . . 333 South Hope Street Los Angeles, CA 90071	—	5,026,000(5)	—	5,026,000(5)	5.5%
The Vanguard Group, Inc. . . . . 100 Vanguard Blvd. Malvern, PA 19355	—	4,998,108(6)	—	4,998,108(6)	5.5%
William Blair & Company, LLC . . . . . 222 W. Adams Chicago, IL 60606	—	4,904,510(7)	—	4,904,510(7)	5.4%
Patrick J. Connolly . . . . .	Director and Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer	714,497(8)	218,767	933,264	1.0%
Laura J. Alber . . . . .	Director, Chief Executive Officer and President	332,334(9)	214,503	546,837	*
Julie P. Whalen . . . . .	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	18,841(10)	22,072	40,913	*
Janet M. Hayes . . . . .	President, Williams-Sonoma Brand	13,573	46,356	59,929	*
Sandra N. Stangl . . . . .	President, Pottery Barn Brands	39,534(11)	83,468	123,002	*



Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Position with Company	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership			Percent of Class(2)
		Common Stock	Awards Exercisable or Vesting within 60 Days(1)	Total	
Adrian D.P. Bellamy . . . . .	Director	33,801	5,381	39,182	*
Rose Marie Bravo . . . . .	Director	5,245	3,954	9,199	*
Adrian T. Dillon . . . . .	Director	72,674 (12)	25,885	98,559	*
Anthony A. Greener . . . . .	Director	34,274	9,011	43,285	*
Ted W. Hall . . . . .	Director	16,072 (13)	9,011	25,083	*
Michael R. Lynch . . . . .	Director	13,808	22,632	36,440	*
Sabrina Simmons . . . . .	Director	—	641	641	*
Lorraine Twohill . . . . .	Director	6,950	2,261	9,211	*
All current executive officers and directors as a group (14 persons) . . . . .	—	1,309,021(14)	710,218	2,019,239	2.2%

\* Less than 1%.

- (1) Reflects stock options that are or will become exercisable, stock-settled stock appreciation rights that are or will become settleable and restricted stock units vesting within 60 days of March 30, 2015 (prior to withholding of any such shares to satisfy applicable statutory withholding requirements).
- (2) Assumes exercise, settlement or vesting of awards included in footnote (1) into shares of our common stock with respect to the named individual. Based on 91,642,370 shares outstanding as of March 30, 2015.
- (3) The information above is based on information taken from the Schedule 13G of Survivor's Trust created under the McMahan Family Trust dtd 1/25/84 (formerly known as McMahan Family Trust dtd 12/7/06) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 10, 2015.
- (4) The information above is based on information taken from the Schedule 13G of BlackRock, Inc. filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 2, 2015.
- (5) The information above and in this footnote is based on information taken from the Schedule 13G filed by Capital Research Global Investors, a division of Capital Research and Management Company, with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 13, 2015.
- (6) The information above is based on information taken from the Schedule 13G of The Vanguard Group, Inc. filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 10, 2015.
- (7) The information above is based on information taken from the Schedule 13G of William Blair & Company, LLC filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 4, 2015.
- (8) Includes 38,920 shares held by Mr. Connolly in the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Stock Fund under our 401(k) plan, based on a statement dated March 30, 2015. The number of shares listed in the table also includes 225,000 shares that are owned by Fanshell Investors LLC. Mr. Connolly is a managing member of Fanshell Investors LLC, and has shared voting and dispositive power over the shares.
- (9) Includes 13,264 shares held by Ms. Alber in the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Stock Fund under our 401(k) plan, based on a statement dated March 30, 2015.
- (10) Includes 932 shares held by Ms. Whalen in the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Stock Fund under our 401(k) plan, based on a statement dated March 30, 2015.
- (11) Includes 5,822 shares held by Ms. Stangl in the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Stock Fund under our 401(k) plan, based on a statement dated March 30, 2015.



- (12) Includes 2,300 shares owned by Mr. Dillon's children. The number of shares listed in the table also includes 54,714 shares that are owned by the Dillon Family Trust, of which Mr. Dillon is the trustee.
- (13) Includes 15,004 shares that are owned by the Hall 2006 Trust, of which Mr. Hall is the trustee.
- (14) Includes 59,126 shares held by the executive officers in the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Stock Fund under our 401(k) plan, based on statements dated March 30, 2015.

## EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

The following table provides information regarding securities authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans as of February 1, 2015.

<u>Plan category</u>	<u>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a)</u>	<u>Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b)</u>	<u>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c)</u>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders(1)(2) . . . . .	3,579,925	\$30.17	4,353,846
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders(3) . . .	<u>500</u>	\$38.84	<u>—</u>
Total . . . . .	3,580,425	\$30.17	4,353,846

- (1) This reflects our 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan and includes stock options and stock appreciation rights, as well as 2,129,919 outstanding restricted stock units.
- (2) The weighted average exercise price calculation does not take into account any restricted stock units as they have no purchase price.
- (3) This reflects our 2000 Nonqualified Stock Option Plan, or the 2000 Plan, and includes only stock options. We ceased making awards under the 2000 Plan in May 2005, and no future awards will be granted from the 2000 Plan. In July 2000, our Compensation Committee approved the 2000 Plan. The 2000 Plan provides for the grant of nonqualified stock options to employees who are not officers or members of our Board, and persons who have accepted employment and actually become employees within 120 days of such acceptance. The plan administrator determines when options granted under the 2000 Plan may be exercised, except that no options may be exercised less than six months after grant, except in the case of the death or disability of the optionee. Options granted under the 2000 Plan have an exercise price equal to 100% of the fair market value of the shares underlying the option on the date of grant. The 2000 Plan permits options to be exercised with cash, check, certain other shares of our common stock, consideration received by us under “cashless exercise” programs or, if permitted by the plan administrator, promissory notes. In the event that we dissolve, liquidate, reorganize, merge or consolidate with one or more corporations as a result of which we are not the surviving corporation, or we sell substantially all of our assets or more than 80% of our then-outstanding stock, the 2000 Plan provides that the plan administrator will provide for one or more of the following: (i) each outstanding option will fully vest and become exercisable; (ii) the successor will assume or substitute for the options; (iii) the 2000 Plan will continue; or (iv) each outstanding option will be exchanged for a payment in cash or shares equal to the excess of the fair market value of our common stock over the exercise price.

### **Incentive Award Committee**

Pursuant to its charter and the 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan, the Compensation Committee may delegate to two or more directors of the Company the authority to make grants and awards to non-executive officers. The Compensation Committee does not delegate any of its authority with respect to executive officers and non-employee directors of the company. However, the Compensation Committee has appointed an Incentive Award Committee consisting of two of the company’s directors, Laura J. Alber and Patrick J. Connolly. The Compensation Committee also delegated to Adrian D.P. Bellamy, the Chairman of the Compensation Committee, and Laura J. Alber the authority to grant equity to certain non-executive employees within a stated budget in connection with the company’s annual equity grant.

The Compensation Committee has delegated to the Incentive Award Committee the authority to grant equity awards under the company’s 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan to non-executive officer employees with a



corporate rank at or below Senior Vice President. The Chief Executive Officer believes it is important to provide our associates with long-term incentive vehicles that are directly linked to stockholder return. Granting equity-based incentives aligns the interests of our associates with those of our stockholders and reinforces the company's pay-for-performance strategy. This delegation is reviewed by the Compensation Committee annually and includes limitations on the number of shares subject to the grants, both on an individual basis and in the aggregate. Reports of awards made by the Incentive Award Committee are included in the materials presented at the Compensation Committee's regularly scheduled meetings.

## **STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS**

Stockholder proposals must comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and be received by our Secretary at our principal executive offices no later than December 11, 2015 in order to be included in our Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting.

In order to submit a proposal to be raised at the 2016 Annual Meeting that will not be included in our Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting, stockholder proposals must comply with our Restated Bylaws. Under our Restated Bylaws a stockholder must give advance notice to our Secretary of any business, including nominations of directors for our Board, that the stockholder wishes to raise at our Annual Meeting. To be timely under our Restated Bylaws, the notice must be received by our Secretary not less than 90 days or more than 120 days prior to May 29, 2016, the anniversary of our 2015 Annual Meeting. Therefore, stockholder proposals must be received by our Secretary at our principal executive offices between January 30, 2016 and February 29, 2016 in order to be raised at our 2016 Annual Meeting.

Under Rule 14a-8 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, if the date of the 2016 Annual Meeting changes by more than 30 days from the anniversary of this year's Annual Meeting, to be included in our Proxy Statement, stockholder proposals must be received by us within a reasonable time before our solicitation is made.

Under our Restated Bylaws, if the date of the 2016 Annual Meeting changes by more than 30 days from the anniversary of this year's Annual Meeting, stockholder proposals to be brought before the 2016 Annual Meeting must be delivered not later than the 90<sup>th</sup> day prior to the 2016 Annual Meeting or the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made by us.

With respect to a stockholder's nomination of a candidate for our Board, the stockholder notice to the Secretary must contain certain information as set forth in our Restated Bylaws and described under the section "Corporate Governance—Board Committees—Nominations and Corporate Governance Committee" about both the nominee and the stockholder making the nomination. With respect to any other business that the stockholder proposes, the stockholder notice must contain a brief description of such business and the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting, as well as certain other information as set forth in our Restated Bylaws.

If we receive notice of a matter to come before the 2016 Annual Meeting that is not in accordance with the deadlines described above, we will use our discretion in determining whether or not to bring such matter before the Annual Meeting. If such matter is brought before the Annual Meeting, then our proxy card for such meeting will confer upon our proxy holders discretionary authority to vote on such matter.

Stockholder proposals should be sent to: Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109.

## **AVAILABILITY OF PROXY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K**

Pursuant to SEC rules, we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials by notifying you of the availability of our proxy materials on the Internet. Copies of this Proxy Statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the financial statements for fiscal 2014 as filed with the SEC, are available at our website at [www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors/annual-reports.html](http://www.williams-sonomainc.com/investors/annual-reports.html) and upon written request and without charge to any stockholder by writing to: Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Attention: Annual Report Administrator, 3250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94109.

San Francisco, California  
April 9, 2015

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## EXHIBIT A

### WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

#### 2001 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN

amending and restating the 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan

#### SECTION 1.

#### PURPOSES AND DEFINITIONS

(a) Purposes. The purposes of the Plan are (i) to attract, retain and incent talented personnel with respect to positions of substantial responsibility at the Company and any Subsidiary; and (ii) to enable the officers, key employees and Non-employee Directors, upon whose judgment, initiative and efforts the Company largely depends for the successful conduct of its business, to acquire a proprietary interest in the Company.

(b) Effect of Amendment and Restatement. With respect to Awards made prior to the 2006 Effective Date, the 2010 Effective Date, the 2011 Effective Date or the 2015 Effective Date, as applicable, amendments to the Plan (including any amendments and restatements of the Plan) made after the grant of the Award only apply to the extent that they (i) do not impair the rights of a Participant, unless otherwise agreed in writing by any such Participant and the Company, and (ii) do not enlarge the rights of an optionee to the extent such enlargement would disqualify an outstanding Incentive Stock Option or give rise to a compensation expense for financial accounting purposes.

(c) Definitions. The following terms are defined as set forth below:

“2006 Effective Date” means the date of the Company’s 2006 annual stockholders meeting.

“2010 Effective Date” means the date of the Company’s 2010 annual stockholders meeting.

“2011 Effective Date” means the date of the Company’s 2011 annual stockholders meeting.

“2015 Effective Date” means the date of the Company’s 2015 annual stockholders meeting.

“Administrator” means the Committee described in Section 2.

“Applicable Laws” means all applicable U.S. state corporate laws, U.S. federal and state securities laws, the Code, any stock exchange or quotation system on which the Common Stock is listed or quoted and the applicable laws of any foreign country or jurisdiction where Awards are granted under the Plan.

“Award” or “Awards,” except where referring to a particular category of grant under the Plan, shall include Incentive Stock Options, Non-Qualified Stock Options, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, Stock Appreciation Rights, Dividend Equivalents and Deferred Stock Awards.

“Award Agreement” means a written or electronic agreement between the Company and the recipient of an Award specifying the terms and conditions of the Award. Each Award Agreement is subject to the terms and conditions of this Plan.

“Awarded Stock” means the Common Stock subject to an Award.

“Board” means the Board of Directors of the Company.

“Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any successor tax code, along with related rules and regulations.

“Change of Control” means the occurrence of any of the following events: (i) A change in the ownership of the Company which occurs on the date that any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, (“Person”) acquires ownership of the stock of the Company that, together with the stock held by such Person, constitutes more than 50% of the total voting power of the stock of the Company; provided, however, that for purposes of this subsection (i), the acquisition of additional stock by any one Person, who is considered to own more than 50% of the total voting power of the stock of the Company will not be considered a Change of Control; or (ii) A change in the effective control of the Company which occurs on the date that a majority of members of the Board is replaced during any twelve (12) month period by Directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the members of the Board prior to the date of the appointment or election. For purposes of this clause (ii), if any Person is considered to effectively control the Company, the acquisition of additional control of the Company by the same Person will not be considered a Change of Control; or (iii) A change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the Company’s assets which occurs on the date that any Person acquires (or has acquired during the twelve (12) month period ending on the date of the most recent acquisition by such person or persons) assets from the Company that have a total gross fair market value equal to or more than 50% of the total gross fair market value of all of the assets of the Company immediately prior to such acquisition or acquisitions; provided, however, that for purposes of this subsection (iii), the following will not constitute a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the Company’s assets: (A) a transfer to an entity that is controlled by the Company’s stockholders immediately after the transfer, or (B) a transfer of assets by the Company to: (1) a stockholder of the Company (immediately before the asset transfer) in exchange for or with respect to the Company’s stock, (2) an entity, 50% or more of the total value or voting power of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by the Company, (3) a Person, that owns, directly or indirectly, 50% or more of the total value or voting power of all the outstanding stock of the Company, or (4) an entity, at least 50% of the total value or voting power of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by a Person. For purposes of this subsection (iii), gross fair market value means the value of the assets of the Company, or the value of the assets being disposed of, determined without regard to any liabilities associated with such assets. For purposes of this definition, persons will be considered to be acting as a group if they are owners of a corporation that enters into a merger, consolidation, purchase or acquisition of stock, or similar business transaction with the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent necessary to avoid taxation under Section 409A, a transaction shall not be deemed a Change of Control unless the transaction qualifies as a change in the ownership of the Company, change in the effective control of the Company or a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the Company’s assets, each within the meaning of Section 409A.

“Committee” means the Committee of the Board referred to in Section 2.

“Company” means Williams-Sonoma, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and any successor thereto.

“Disability” means total and permanent disability as defined in Section 22(e)(3) of the Code, unless otherwise provided in an Award Agreement.

“Deferred Stock Award” means an Award granted pursuant to Section 10.

“Dividend Equivalent” means a credit, payable in cash or stock, made at the discretion of the Administrator, to the account of a Participant in an amount equal to the cash dividends paid on one Share for each Share represented by an Award held by such Participant, which at the discretion of the Administrator may be deemed reinvested in additional shares of Stock covered by the Award.

“Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time.

“Fair Market Value” means, as of any date, the closing sales price for a share of Stock (or the closing bid, if no sales are reported) as quoted on the New York Stock Exchange on the last market trading day prior to the day of determination, as reported in the Wall Street Journal or any other source the Administrator considers reliable, or, if the shares of Stock cease to be traded on the New York Stock Exchange, the value which the Administrator determines most closely reflects the fair market value of the shares.



“Fiscal Year” means a fiscal year of the Company.

“Full Value Award” means a grant of Restricted Stock, a Restricted Stock Unit, a Deferred Stock Award or a Dividend Equivalent payable in Stock hereunder.

“Incentive Stock Option” means any Stock Option that is intended to qualify as, and is designated in writing in the related Option Award agreement as intending to constitute, an “incentive stock option” as defined in Section 422 of the Code.

“Non-employee Director” means a member of the Board who is not also an employee of the Company or any Subsidiary.

“Non-Qualified Stock Option” means any Stock Option that is not an Incentive Stock Option.

“Parent” means a “parent corporation,” whether now or hereafter existing, as defined in Section 424(e) of the Code.

“Participant” means the holder of an outstanding Award granted under the Plan.

“Performance Goals” means the goal(s) (or combined goal(s)) determined by the Administrator (in its discretion) to be applicable to a Participant with respect to an Award. As determined by the Administrator, the Performance Goals that may be applicable to an Award may consist of any one or more of the following objective performance criteria, applied to either the Company as a whole or, except with respect to stockholder return metrics, to a region, business unit, affiliate or business segment, or on an individual basis, and measured either on an absolute basis, a per-share basis or relative to a pre-established target, to a previous period’s results or to a designated comparison group, and, with respect to financial metrics, which may be determined in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“GAAP”), in accordance with accounting standards established by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB Standards”) or which may be adjusted when established to include or exclude any items otherwise excludable or includable under GAAP or under IASB Standards: (i) revenue (on an absolute basis or adjusted for currency effects); (ii) cash flow (including operating cash flow or free cash flow); (iii) cash position; (iv) earnings (which may include earnings before interest and taxes, earnings before taxes, net earnings or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization); (v) earnings per share; (vi) gross margin; (vii) net income; (viii) operating expenses or operating expenses as a percentage of revenue; (ix) operating income or net operating income; (x) return on assets or net assets; (xi) return on equity; (xii) return on sales; (xiii) total stockholder return; (xiv) stock price; (xv) growth in stockholder value relative to the moving average of the S&P 500 Index, or another index; (xvi) return on capital; (xvii) return on investment; (xviii) economic value added; (xix) operating margin; (xx) market share; (xxi) overhead or other expense reduction; (xxii) credit rating; (xxiii) objective customer indicators; (xxiv) improvements in productivity; (xxv) attainment of objective operating goals; (xxvi) objective employee metrics; (xxvii) return ratios; (xxviii) profit; or (xxix) other objective financial metrics relating to the progress of the Company or to a Subsidiary, division or department thereof. The Performance Goals may differ from Participant to Participant and from Award to Award.

“Plan” means this 2001 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated on May 29, 2015.

“Restricted Stock” means an Award granted pursuant to Section 8.

“Restricted Stock Unit” means an Award granted pursuant to Section 9.

“Retirement” means, except as otherwise set forth in an applicable Award Agreement, termination of employment (with respect to employees) or service (with respect to Non-employee Directors) on or after having attained at least 55 years of age and at least ten (10) years of completed service with the Company or its Subsidiaries.

“Rule 16b-3” means Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, and any future regulation amending, supplementing or superseding such regulation.

“Stock” means the common stock, \$.01 par value per share, of the Company, subject to adjustments pursuant to Section 3.

“Stock Appreciation Right” or “SAR” means a stock-settled stock appreciation right granted pursuant to Section 7.

“Stock Option” means any option to purchase shares of Stock granted pursuant to Section 6 or previously granted under this Plan prior to its 2004 amendment and restatement.

“Subsidiary” means any corporation in an unbroken chain of corporations beginning with the Company as the corporation at the top of the chain, but only if each of the corporations below the Company (other than the last corporation in the unbroken chain) then owns stock possessing fifty percent (50%) or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock in one of the other corporations in such chain.

“Substitute Award” means an Award described in Section 3(d).

## SECTION 2. ADMINISTRATION OF PLAN; ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORITY TO SELECT PARTICIPANTS AND DETERMINE AWARDS

(a) Committee. The Plan shall be administered by a committee of not fewer than two (2) Non-employee Directors (the “Committee”). To the extent desirable to qualify transactions hereunder as exempt under Rule 16b-3, each member of the Committee shall be a “non-employee director” within the meaning of Rule 16b-3(b)(3)(i) promulgated under the Exchange Act, or any successor definition. To the extent that the Administrator determines it to be desirable to qualify Awards granted hereunder as “performance-based compensation” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code, each member of the Committee shall also be an “outside director” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code and the regulations (including temporary and proposed regulations) promulgated thereunder. In addition, each member of the Committee shall meet the then applicable requirements and criteria of the New York Stock Exchange (or other market on which the Stock then trades) for qualification as an “independent director.”

(b) Delegation by the Administrator. The Administrator, in its sole discretion and on such terms and conditions as it may provide, may delegate all or any part of its authority and powers under the Plan to two or more Directors of the Company or as otherwise may be consistent with Applicable Law; provided, however, that the Administrator may not delegate its authority and powers (a) with respect to any person who, with respect to the Stock, is subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, or (b) in any way which would jeopardize the Plan’s qualification under Applicable Laws.

(c) Powers of Administrator. The Administrator shall have the power and authority to grant Awards consistent with the terms of the Plan, including the power and authority:

(i) to select the individuals to whom Awards may from time to time be granted;

(ii) to determine the time or times of grant, and the extent, if any, of Incentive Stock Options, Non-Qualified Stock Options, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, Stock Appreciation Rights, Dividend Equivalents and Deferred Stock Awards, or any combination of the foregoing, granted to any one or more Participants;

(iii) to determine the number of shares of Stock to be covered by any Award;

(iv) Subject to Section 2(d), to determine and modify from time to time the terms and conditions, including restrictions, consistent with the terms of the Plan, of any Award, which terms and conditions may differ among individual Awards and Participants, and to approve the form of written instruments evidencing the Awards;

(v) Subject to Section 2(d) and to the minimum vesting provisions of Sections 8(d), 9(d) and 10(a), to accelerate at any time the exercisability or vesting of all or any portion of any Award;

(vi) subject to the provisions of Sections 6(a)(iii) and 7(a)(iii), to extend at any time the post-termination period in which Stock Options or Stock Appreciations Rights may be exercised;

(vii) to determine at any time whether, to what extent, and under what circumstances Stock and other amounts payable with respect to an Award shall be deferred either automatically or at the election of the Participant and whether and to what extent the Company shall pay or credit amounts constituting deemed interest (at rates determined by the Administrator) or dividends or deemed dividends on such deferrals;

(viii) to develop, approve and utilize forms of notices, Award Agreements and similar materials for administration and operation of the Plan;

(ix) to determine if any Award (other than Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights) shall be accompanied by the grant of a corresponding Dividend Equivalent; and

(x) at any time to adopt, alter and repeal such rules, guidelines and practices for administration of the Plan and for its own acts and proceedings as the Administrator shall deem advisable; to interpret the terms and provisions of the Plan and any Award (including related written instruments); to make all determinations it deems necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan; to decide all disputes arising in connection with the Plan; and to otherwise supervise the administration of the Plan.

All decisions and interpretations of the Administrator shall be made in the Administrator's sole and absolute discretion and shall be final and binding on all persons, including the Company and Plan Participants.

(d) Limitations on Vesting and Acceleration. Full Value Awards that result in issuing up to 5% of the maximum aggregate number of shares of Stock authorized for issuance under the Plan (the "5% Limit") may be granted to any one or more employees or Non-employee Directors without respect to any minimum vesting provisions included in the Plan. Awards granted to Non-employee Directors pursuant to a formula approved by the Board shall not count towards the 5% Limit and shall not be subject to any minimum vesting requirements under the Plan. Further, all Full Value Awards that have their vesting discretionarily accelerated by the Administrator and, all Options and SARs that have their vesting discretionarily accelerated in full by the Administration, in each case other than pursuant to (i) a transaction described in Section 17 hereof (which for this purpose shall be deemed to include acceleration in connection with the occurrence of an additional or subsequent event), (ii) a Participant's death, (iii) a Participant's Disability (as defined in the Plan or relevant Award Agreement), or (iv) a Participant's Retirement, are subject to the 5% Limit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Administrator may, in its discretion, accelerate the vesting of Full Value Awards such that the Plan minimum vesting requirements still must be met, without such vesting acceleration counting toward the 5% Limit. The 5% Limit shall be considered as one aggregate limit applying to the granting of Full Value Awards to employees or Non-employee Directors without respect to Plan minimum vesting requirements and to the discretionary vesting acceleration of Awards.

### SECTION 3.

#### STOCK ISSUABLE UNDER THE PLAN; TERM OF PLAN; RECAPITALIZATIONS; MERGERS; SUBSTITUTE AWARDS

(a) Stock Issuable. Subject to the provisions of Section 3(c), 31,555,743 shares of Stock are reserved and available for issuance under the Plan, plus any shares subject to any outstanding options under the Company's

1993 Stock Option Plan and the Company's 2000 Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan that expire unexercised after March 15, 2006, up to a maximum of 754,160 shares. The shares available for issuance under the Plan may be authorized but unissued shares of Stock or shares of Stock reacquired by the Company. If any portion of an Award is forfeited, cancelled, satisfied without the issuance of Stock or otherwise terminated, the shares of Stock underlying such portion of the Award shall be added back to the shares of Stock available for issuance under the Plan. Subject to adjustment provided in Section 3(c), the maximum number of Shares that may be issued upon the exercise of Incentive Stock Options shall equal the aggregate Share number stated in this Section 3.1(a), plus, to the extent allowable under Section 422 of the Code, any Shares that become available for issuance under the Plan under Section 3(c).

Any shares subject to Options or SARs shall be counted against the numerical limits of this Section 3(a) as one share for every share subject thereto. With respect to Awards granted on or after the date of receiving stockholder approval of the amended Plan in 2006, any shares subject to Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units or Deferred Stock Awards with a per share or unit purchase price lower than 100% of Fair Market Value on the date of grant and, on or after the date of the 2015 annual stockholders meeting, any Dividend Equivalents payable in Stock shall be counted against the numerical limits of this Section 3(a) as one and nine-tenths shares for every one share subject thereto. To the extent that a share that was subject to an Award that counted as one and nine-tenths shares against the Plan reserve pursuant to the preceding sentence is recycled back into the Plan under the next paragraph of this Section 3(a), the Plan shall be credited with one and nine-tenths Shares.

If an Award expires or becomes unexercisable without having been exercised in full, or, with respect to Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units or Deferred Stock Awards, is forfeited to or repurchased by the Company at its original purchase price due to such Award failing to vest, the unpurchased Shares (or for Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units or Deferred Stock Awards, the forfeited or repurchased shares) which were subject thereto shall become available for future grant or sale under the Plan (unless the Plan has terminated). With respect to SARs, when an SAR is exercised, the shares subject to a SAR grant agreement shall be counted against the numerical limits of Section 3(a) above, as one share for every share subject thereto, regardless of the number of shares used to settle the SAR upon exercise (i.e., shares withheld to satisfy the exercise price of an SAR shall not remain available for issuance under the Plan). Shares that have actually been issued under the Plan under any Award shall not be returned to the Plan and shall not become available for future distribution under the Plan; provided, however, that if Shares of Restricted Stock are repurchased by the Company at their original purchase price or are forfeited to the Company due to such Awards failing to vest, such Shares shall become available for future grant under the Plan. Shares used to pay the exercise price of an Option or SAR shall not become available for future grant or sale under the Plan. Shares used to satisfy tax withholding obligations shall not become available for future grant or sale under the Plan. Any payout of Dividend Equivalents payable only in cash shall not reduce the number of Shares available for issuance under the Plan. Conversely, any forfeiture of Dividend Equivalents payable in cash shall not increase the number of Shares available for issuance under the Plan. Any forfeiture of Dividend Equivalents payable in Stock shall increase the number of Shares available for issuance under the plan by one and nine-tenths shares for every one share of Dividend Equivalents forfeited. To the extent an Award under the Plan (other than a SAR or Option) is paid out in cash rather than Shares, such cash payment will not result in reducing the number of Shares available for issuance under the Plan (and in the case of Options or SARs shall reduce the number of Shares available for issuance under the Plan by the number of Shares having a Fair Market Value equal to the cash delivered). Notwithstanding the foregoing, shares of Stock purchased by the Company with the proceeds of a Stock Option exercise shall not again be made available for issuance under the Plan.

(b) Term of Plan. No Awards shall be made more than ten (10) years after the date upon which the Board approved the amended and restated Plan in 2015. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights granted hereunder may, except as otherwise expressly provided herein, be exercisable for up to seven (7) years after the date of grant.

(c) Impact of Transactions. Subject to the provisions of Section 17, if, through or as a result of any merger, consolidation, sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, reorganization, recapitalization,

reclassification, stock dividend, extraordinary cash dividend, stock split, reverse stock split or other similar transaction, the outstanding shares of Stock are increased or decreased or are exchanged for a different number or kind of shares or other securities of the Company, or additional shares or new or different shares or other securities of the Company or other non-cash assets are distributed with respect to such shares of Stock or other securities, subject to the constraints of Code Sections 162(m) and 409A, the Administrator will make an appropriate or proportionate adjustment in (i) the maximum number of shares reserved for issuance under the Plan, (ii) the number of Awards that can be granted to any one individual Participant in any calendar year, (iii) the number and kind of shares or other securities subject to any then outstanding Awards under the Plan, and (iv) the price for each share subject to any then outstanding Awards under the Plan, without changing the aggregate exercise price. The adjustment by the Administrator shall be final, binding and conclusive. No fractional shares of Stock shall be issued under the Plan resulting from any such adjustment.

(d) Substitute Awards. The Administrator may grant Awards under the Plan in substitution for stock and stock based awards held by employees of another corporation who become employees of the Company or a Subsidiary as the result of a merger or consolidation of the employing corporation with the Company or a Subsidiary or the acquisition by the Company or a Subsidiary of property or stock of the employing corporation. The Administrator may direct that the Substitute Awards be granted with such terms and conditions as the Administrator considers appropriate in the circumstances. Substitute Awards shall not reduce the shares of Stock available for issuance under the Plan, nor shall shares subject to a Substitute Award be added back to the shares of Stock available for issuance under the Plan as provided in Section 3(a) above. Additionally, subject to the rules of the applicable stock exchange on which the Stock is listed, in the event that a company acquired by the Company or any Subsidiary or with which the Company or any Subsidiary combines has shares available under a pre-existing plan approved by stockholders and not adopted in contemplation of such acquisition or combination, the shares available for grant pursuant to the terms of such pre-existing plan (as adjusted, to the extent appropriate, using the exchange ratio or other adjustment or valuation ratio or formula used in such acquisition or combination to determine the consolidation payable to holder of common stock of the entities party to such acquisition or combination) may be used for Awards under the Plan and shall not reduce the shares available for issuance under the Plan (and shares subject to such Awards shall not be added back to the shares available for Awards under the Plan as provided in Section 3(a) above); provided that Awards using such available shares shall not be made after the date awards or grants could have been made under the terms of the pre-existing plan, absent the acquisition or combination, and shall only be made to individuals who were not eligible to receive Awards as set forth in Section 4 below prior to such acquisition or combination.

#### SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY

Those persons eligible to participate in the Plan shall be officers, employees and Non-employee Directors of the Company, its Parent and any Subsidiaries. Selection of Participants shall be made from time to time by the Administrator, in its sole discretion.

#### SECTION 5. CODE SECTION 162(m) LIMITATIONS

(a) Stock Options and SARs. A Participant can receive no more than one million shares of Stock in the aggregate covered by Stock Options or SARs during any one calendar year, subject to adjustment under Section 3(c).

(b) Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units and Deferred Stock Awards. A Participant can receive grants covering no more than one million shares of Stock in the aggregate covered by Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units or Deferred Stock Awards during any one calendar year, subject to adjustment under Section 3(c). Awards subject to variable payout will be counted at maximum payout for this purpose. For the avoidance of doubt, the

limits set forth in this Section 5(b) shall not be subject to the one to one and nine-tenths share ratio described in Section 3(a) and shall be applied on a one-for-one share ratio basis.

(c) Section 162(m) Performance Restrictions. For purposes of qualifying grants of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units as “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m) of the Code, the Administrator, in its discretion, may set restrictions based upon the achievement of Performance Goals. The Performance Goals shall be set by the Administrator on or before the latest date permissible to enable the Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units to qualify as “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m) of the Code. In granting Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units which are intended to qualify under Section 162(m) of the Code, the Administrator shall follow any procedures determined by it from time to time to be necessary or appropriate to ensure qualification of the Award under Section 162(m) of the Code (e.g., in determining the Performance Goals). For Awards intended to comply with the performance-based compensation exception, the administrator shall not exercise discretion to increase the amount payable thereunder in contravention of Section 162(m) of the Code.

## SECTION 6. STOCK OPTIONS

Any Stock Option granted under the Plan shall be in such form as the Administrator may from time to time approve. Stock Options granted under the Plan may be either Incentive Stock Options or Non-Qualified Stock Options. Incentive Stock Options may be granted only to employees of the Company, its Parent or any Subsidiary. To the extent that any Option does not qualify as an Incentive Stock Option, it shall be a Non-Qualified Stock Option.

(a) Stock Option Grants. The Administrator, in its discretion, may grant Stock Options to eligible officers and key employees of the Company, its Parent or any Subsidiary. Stock Options granted pursuant to this Section 6(a) shall not include the right to dividends, Dividend Equivalents or other similar distribution rights and shall be subject to the following terms and conditions and each Stock Option Award Agreement shall contain such additional terms and conditions, consistent with the terms of the Plan, as the Administrator deems desirable.

(i) Exercise Price. The exercise price per share shall be determined by the Administrator at the time of grant, but it shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value on the date of grant. If an employee owns or is deemed to own (by reason of the attribution rules of Section 424(d) of the Code) more than 10% of the combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any parent or subsidiary corporation and an Incentive Stock Option is granted to such employee, the option price of such Incentive Stock Option shall be not less than 110% of the Fair Market Value on the grant date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Stock Option (whether an Incentive Stock Option or a Non-Qualified Stock Option) may be granted with an exercise price lower than the minimum exercise price set forth above if such Stock Option is granted as a Substitute Award, except as would result in taxation under Code Section 409A, the loss of Incentive Stock Option status or would violate Applicable Law.

(ii) Option Term. The term of each Stock Option shall be fixed by the Administrator, but no Stock Option shall be exercisable more than seven (7) years after the date the option is granted. If an employee owns or is deemed to own more than 10% of the combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any Parent or Subsidiary and an Incentive Stock Option is granted to such employee, the term of such option shall be no more than five (5) years from the date of grant.

(iii) Exercisability; Rights of a Stockholder. Stock Options shall become exercisable at such time or times, whether or not in installments, as shall be determined by the Administrator; provided, however, that all Stock Options must be exercised within seven (7) years of the date they become exercisable or they shall automatically expire. The Administrator may, at any time, accelerate the exercisability of all or any portion of any Stock Option. An optionee shall have the rights of a stockholder only as to shares acquired upon the exercise of a Stock Option and not as to unexercised Stock Options.

(iv) Method of Exercise. Stock Options may be exercised in whole or in part, by giving written or electronic notice of exercise to the Company, specifying the number of shares to be purchased. To the

extent permitted by Applicable Law, payment of the purchase price may be made by one or more of the following methods to the extent provided in the Award Agreement:

(A) In cash, by certified or bank check or other instrument acceptable to the Administrator;

(B) In the form of shares of Stock that are not then subject to restrictions under any Company plan and that have been beneficially owned by the optionee for at least six months (or shorter period, if any, required to avoid adverse accounting or other consequences), if permitted by the Administrator in its discretion. Such surrendered shares shall be valued at Fair Market Value on the exercise date;

(C) By the optionee delivering to the Company a properly executed exercise notice together with irrevocable instructions to a broker to promptly deliver to the Company cash or a check payable and acceptable to the Company to pay the purchase price; provided that the payment method described in this Section 6(a)(iv)(C) shall not be available to an optionee who is subject to the reporting and other provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act unless the optionee and the broker comply with such procedures and enter into such agreements as the Administrator shall prescribe as a condition of such payment procedure; or

(D) By a net exercise procedure.

The actual or constructive delivery of certificates (as described in Section 18(b)) representing the shares of Stock to be purchased pursuant to the exercise of a Stock Option will be contingent upon receipt from the optionee (or a purchaser acting in his or her stead in accordance with the provisions of the Stock Option) by the Company of the full purchase price for such shares and fulfilling any other requirements contained in the Stock Option or Applicable Laws.

(b) Annual Limit on Incentive Stock Options. To the extent that the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined as of the time of grant) of the shares of Stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options granted under this Plan and any other plan of the Company or its parent and subsidiary corporations become exercisable for the first time by an optionee during any calendar year in excess of \$100,000, it shall constitute a Non-Qualified Stock Option.

(c) Termination. Except as may otherwise be provided by the Administrator either in the Award Agreement or, subject to Section 15 below, in writing after the Award Agreement is issued, an optionee's rights in all Stock Options shall automatically terminate ninety (90) days following optionee's termination of employment (or cessation of business relationship) with the Company and its Subsidiaries for any reason. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an optionee ceases to be employed by the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries by reason of his or her death, or if the employee dies within the thirty (30) day period after the employee ceases to be employed by the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries, any Stock Options of such optionee may be exercised, to the extent of the number of shares with respect to which he or she could have exercised it on the date of his or her death, by his or her estate, personal representative or beneficiary who has acquired the Stock Options by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, at any time prior to the earlier of the specified expiration date of the Options or one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of such optionee's death. Additionally, if an optionee ceases to be employed by the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries by reason of his or her Disability, he or she shall have the right to exercise any Stock Options held by the optionee on the date of termination of employment, to the extent of the number of shares with respect to which he or she could have exercised it on that date, at any time prior to the earlier of the specified expiration date of the Stock Options or one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the termination of the optionee's employment.

(d) Notice to Company of Disqualifying Disposition. Each employee who receives an Incentive Stock Option must agree to notify the Company in writing immediately after the employee makes a Disqualifying Disposition of any Stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of an Incentive Stock Option. A "Disqualifying Disposition" is any disposition (including any sale) of such Stock before the later of:

(i) two years after the date the employee was granted the Incentive Stock Option, or

(ii) one year after the date the employee acquired Stock by exercising the Incentive Stock Option.

If the employee has died before such stock is sold, these holding period requirements do not apply.

## SECTION 7. STOCK APPRECIATION RIGHTS

Any Stock Appreciation Right granted under the Plan shall be in such form as the Administrator may from time to time approve.

(a) Stock Appreciation Right Awards. The Administrator, in its discretion, may award Stock Appreciation Rights to eligible officers and key employees of the Company, its Parent or any Subsidiary. Stock Appreciation Rights awarded pursuant to this Section 7(a) shall not include the right to dividends, Dividend Equivalents or other similar distribution rights and shall be subject to the following terms and conditions and each Stock Appreciation Right Award Agreement shall be subject such additional terms and conditions, consistent with the terms of the Plan, as the Administrator deems desirable.

(i) Exercise Price. The exercise price per share shall be determined by the Administrator at the time of grant, but it shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value on the date of grant. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Stock Appreciation Right may be granted with an exercise price lower than the minimum exercise price set forth above if such Stock Appreciation Right is granted as a Substitute Award, except as would result in taxation under Code Section 409A or would violate Applicable Law.

(ii) SAR Term. The term of each Stock Appreciation Right shall be fixed by the Administrator, but no Stock Appreciation Right shall be exercisable more than seven (7) years after the date of grant.

(iii) Exercisability; Rights of a Stockholder. Stock Appreciation Rights shall become exercisable at such time or times, whether or not in installments, as shall be determined by the Administrator in an Award Agreement; provided, however, that all Stock Appreciation Rights must be exercised within seven (7) years of the date they become exercisable or they shall automatically expire. The Administrator may, at any time, accelerate the exercisability of all or any portion of any Stock Appreciation Right. An optionee shall have the rights of a stockholder only as to shares acquired upon the exercise of a Stock Appreciation Right and not as to unexercised Stock Appreciation Rights.

(iv) Method of Exercise. Stock Appreciation Rights may be exercised in whole or in part, by giving written or electronic notice of exercise to the Company, specifying the number of shares to be purchased. Upon exercise of an SAR, a Participant shall be entitled to receive payment from the Company solely in shares of Stock equal in value to an amount determined by multiplying the difference between the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock on the date of exercise over the exercise price times the number of shares of Stock with respect to which the SAR is exercised, rounded down to the nearest whole share.

The actual or constructive delivery of certificates (as described in Section 18(b)) representing the shares of Stock to be delivered pursuant to the exercise of a Stock Appreciation Right will be contingent upon fulfilling any requirements contained in the Stock Appreciation Right Award or Applicable Laws.

(b) Termination. Except as may otherwise be provided by the Administrator either in the Award Agreement or, subject to Section 15 below, in writing after the Award Agreement is issued, a Participant's rights in all Stock Appreciation Rights shall automatically terminate ninety (90) days following his or her termination of employment (or cessation of business relationship) with the Company and its Subsidiaries for any reason. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a Participant ceases to be employed by the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries by reason of his or her death, or if the employee dies within the thirty (30) day period after the employee ceases to be employed by the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries, any Stock Appreciation Rights of such Participant may be exercised, to the extent of the number of shares with respect to which he or she



could have exercised it on the date of his or her death, by his or her estate, personal representative or beneficiary who has acquired the Stock Appreciation Rights by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, at any time prior to the earlier of the specified expiration date of the SARs or one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of such Participant's death. Additionally, if a Participant ceases to be employed by the Company and the Company's Subsidiaries by reason of his or her Disability, he or she shall have the right to exercise any Stock Appreciation Rights held on the date of termination of employment, to the extent of the number of shares with respect to which he or she could have exercised it on that date, at any time prior to the earlier of the specified expiration date of the Stock Appreciation Rights or one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the termination of employment.

## SECTION 8. RESTRICTED STOCK AWARDS

(a) Nature of Restricted Stock Awards. A Restricted Stock Award is an Award entitling the recipient to acquire shares of Stock subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Administrator may determine at the time of grant ("Restricted Stock"). A Restricted Stock Award can be made without any required payment, upon payment of par value or upon any other such payment, all as determined by the Administrator in its discretion and in compliance with Applicable Law. Without limitation, conditions may be based on continuing employment (or service as a Non-employee Director) and/or achievement of pre-established performance goals and objectives. The terms and conditions of each such Award Agreement shall be determined by the Administrator, and such terms and conditions may differ among individual Awards and Participants.

(b) Rights as a Stockholder. Upon execution of the Restricted Stock Award Agreement and paying any applicable purchase price, a Participant shall have the rights of a stockholder with respect to the voting of the Restricted Stock, subject to such terms and conditions as may be contained in the Restricted Stock Award Agreement. Unless the Administrator shall otherwise determine, certificates (as described in Section 18(b)) evidencing the Restricted Stock shall remain in the possession of the Company until such Restricted Stock is vested as provided in Section 8(d) below, and the Participant may be required, as a condition of the grant, to deliver to the Company a stock power endorsed in blank.

(c) Restrictions. Except as may otherwise be provided by the Administrator either in the Award Agreement or, subject to Section 15 below, in writing after the Award Agreement is issued, if a Participant's employment (or service as a Non-employee Director) with the Company and its Subsidiaries terminates for any reason, the Company shall have the right to repurchase Restricted Stock that has not vested at the time of termination at its original purchase price (which may be zero), from the Participant or the Participant's legal representative.

(d) Vesting of Restricted Stock. The Administrator at the time of grant shall specify the date or dates and/or the attainment of pre-established performance goals, objectives and other conditions on which the Company's right of repurchase or forfeiture shall lapse, provided, however, that any Awards of Restricted Stock that vest solely on the basis of continuing employment (or service as a Non-employee Director) shall be subject to a period of vesting determined by the Administrator.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and except in connection with a transaction described in Section 17 hereof (including upon the occurrence of an additional or subsequent event) or upon or in connection with a Participant's death, Disability (as defined in the Plan or relevant Award Agreement) or retirement, and except as permitted by Section 2(d) hereof:

(i) With respect to Restricted Stock vesting solely based on continuing as an employee or Non-employee Director, the shares of Stock subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the three (3) year anniversary of the grant date;

(ii) If vesting of a Restricted Stock Award granted to an employee is not based solely on continuing as an employee or a Non-employee Director, the shares of Stock subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the one (1) year anniversary of the grant date; and

(iii) If vesting of a Restricted Stock Award granted to a Non-employee Director is not based solely on continuing as a Non-employee Director or employee, the shares of Stock subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the earlier of: (A) the date that is one (1) day prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Company's stockholders next following the grant date (approximately one (1) year from the grant date), or (B) the one (1) year anniversary of the grant date.

(e) Waiver, Deferral and Reinvestment of Dividends. The Restricted Stock Award Agreement may require or permit the immediate payment, waiver, deferral or reinvestment (in the form of additional Restricted Stock) of dividends paid on the Restricted Stock, provided, however, that any dividends payable with respect to Restricted Stock that is subject to performance conditions shall be held in escrow or deemed reinvested in additional shares of Restricted Stock until the achievement of the applicable performance conditions and shall otherwise be subject to all of the same conditions applicable to payment of the Restricted Stock.

## SECTION 9. RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AWARDS

(a) Nature of Restricted Stock Unit Awards. A Restricted Stock Unit Award entitles the Participant to acquire shares of Stock subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Administrator may determine at the time of grant (a "Restricted Stock Unit"). A Restricted Stock Unit Award can be made without any required payment, upon payment of par value or upon any other such payment, all as determined by the Administrator in its discretion and in compliance with Applicable Law. Without limitation, conditions may be based on continuing employment (or service as a Non-employee Director) and/or achievement of pre-established performance goals and objectives. The terms and conditions of each such Award Agreement shall be determined by the Administrator, and such terms and conditions may differ among individual Awards and Participants.

(b) Rights as a Stockholder. A Participant shall have the rights of a stockholder only as to shares acquired upon the delivery of shares of Stock pursuant to a Restricted Stock Unit Award and not as to any unvested or undelivered shares of Stock. Further, any Dividend Equivalents with respect to a Restricted Stock Unit Award that is subject to performance conditions shall be held in escrow or deemed reinvested in additional Restricted Stock Units until the achievement of the applicable performance conditions and shall otherwise be subject to all of the same conditions applicable to the Restricted Stock Unit Award.

(c) Restrictions. Except as may otherwise be provided by the Administrator either in the Award Agreement or, subject to Section 15 below, in writing after the Award Agreement is issued, if a Participant's employment (or service as a Non-employee Director) with the Company and its Subsidiaries terminates for any reason, the Restricted Stock Unit, to the extent not then vested, shall be forfeited.

(d) Vesting of Restricted Stock Unit. The Administrator at the time of grant shall specify the date or dates and/or the attainment of pre-established performance goals, objectives and other conditions on which the Restricted Stock Unit shall vest, provided, however, that any Awards of Restricted Stock that vest solely on the basis of continuing employment (or service as a Non-employee Director) shall be subject to a period of vesting determined by the Administrator.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and except in connection with a transaction described in Section 17 hereof (including upon the occurrence of an additional or subsequent event) or upon or in connection with a Participant's death, Disability (as defined in the Plan or relevant Award Agreement) or retirement, and except as permitted by Section 2(d) hereof:

(i) With respect to Restricted Stock Units vesting solely based on continuing as an employee or Non-employee Director, the Restricted Stock Units subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the three (3) year anniversary of the grant date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if Restricted Stock Units subject to such an Award are granted in exchange for the Participant's agreement to cancel

another Award under an exchange program approved by the Company's stockholders at the 2008 annual meeting of the Company's stockholders, then the Participant may receive credit against this three (3)-year vesting requirement for the amounts that had vested under the cancelled Award;

(ii) If vesting of a Restricted Stock Unit Award granted to an employee is not based solely on continuing as an employee or Non-employee Director, the Restricted Stock Units subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the one (1) year anniversary of the grant date;

(iii) If vesting of a Restricted Stock Unit Award granted to a Non-employee Director is not based solely on continuing as a Non-employee Director or Employee, the Restricted Stock Units subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the earlier of: (A) the date that is one (1) day prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Company's stockholders next following the grant date (approximately one (1) year from the grant date), or (B) the one (1) year anniversary of the grant date.

## SECTION 10. DEFERRED STOCK AWARDS

(a) Nature of Deferred Stock Awards. A Deferred Stock Award is an Award of a right to receive shares of Stock at the end of a specified deferral period. The Administrator in its sole discretion shall determine the persons to whom and the time or times at which Deferred Stock Awards will be made, the number of shares of Stock covered by any Deferred Stock Award, the duration of the period (the "Deferral Period") prior to which the Stock will be delivered, and the restrictions and other conditions under which receipt of the Stock will be deferred and any other terms and conditions of the Deferred Stock Awards. The Administrator may condition a Deferred Stock Award upon the attainment of specified performance goals by the Participant or by the Company or a Subsidiary, including a division or department of the Company or a Subsidiary for or within which the Participant is primarily employed, or upon such other factors or criteria as the Administrator shall determine.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and except in connection with a transaction described in Section 17 hereof (including upon the occurrence of an additional or subsequent event) or upon or in connection with a Participant's death, Disability (as defined in the Plan or relevant Award Agreement) or retirement, and except as permitted by Section 2(d) hereof:

(i) With respect to Deferred Stock Awards vesting solely based on continuing as an employee or Non-employee Director, the shares of Stock subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the three (3) year anniversary of the grant date;

(ii) If vesting of a Deferred Stock Award granted to an employee is not based solely on continuing as an employee or Non-employee Director, the shares of Stock subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the one (1) year anniversary of the grant date; and

(iii) If vesting of a Deferred Stock Award granted to a Non-employee Director is not based solely on continuing as a Non-employee Director or employee, the shares of Stock subject to such Award will vest in full no earlier than the earlier of: (A) the date that is one (1) day prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Company's stockholders next following the grant date (approximately one (1) year from the grant date), or (B) the one (1) year anniversary of the grant date.

The provisions of Deferred Stock Awards need not be the same with respect to any Participant. The Administrator may make Deferred Stock Awards independent of or in connection with the granting of any other Award under the Plan.

(b) Terms and Conditions. Deferred Stock Awards shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(i) Expiration of Deferral Period. At the expiration of the Deferral Period (or Elective Deferral Period as defined in Section 10(b)(iv), where applicable), the Administrator shall deliver Stock to the Participant for the shares of Stock covered by the Deferred Stock Award.

(ii) Rights. Cash dividends with respect to Restricted Stock Deferred Stock Award or Dividend Equivalent Rights with respect to a Restricted Stock Unit Deferred Stock Award shall be subject to such vesting and payment terms as are determined by the Administrator. Further, any dividends payable with respect to a Restricted Stock Deferred Stock Award that is subject to performance conditions and any Dividend Equivalents with respect to a Restricted Stock Unit Deferred Stock Award that is subject to performance conditions shall be held in escrow or deemed reinvested in additional shares of Restricted Stock or additional Restricted Stock Units, as applicable, until the achievement of the applicable performance conditions and shall otherwise be subject to all of the same conditions applicable to the applicable Restricted Stock Deferred Stock Award or Restricted Stock Unit Deferred Stock Award.

(iii) Acceleration and Waiver. Based on such factors or criteria as the Administrator may determine, and subject to the minimum vesting requirements of Section 10(a), the Administrator may provide in the Award Agreement for the lapse of restrictions, conditions or deferral limitations in installments and may accelerate the vesting of all or any part of any Deferred Stock Award and waive such remaining restrictions, conditions or deferral limitations for all or any part of such Deferred Stock Award, subject to the requirements of Code Section 409A.

(iv) Election. A Participant may elect further to defer receipt of the shares of Stock payable under a Deferred Stock Award (or an installment thereof) for a specified period or until a specified event (an "Elective Deferral Period"), subject in each case to the Administrator's approval, to such terms as are determined by the Administrator and to the requirements of Code Section 409A.

(c) Rights as a Stockholder. A Participant receiving a Deferred Stock Award shall have the rights of a stockholder only as to shares actually received by the Participant under the Plan and not with respect to shares subject to the Award but not actually received by the Participant. A Participant shall be entitled to receive a stock certificate (as described in Section 18(b)) evidencing the acquisition of shares of Stock under a Deferred Stock Award only upon satisfaction of all conditions specified in the Deferred Stock Award Agreement.

(d) Termination. Except as may otherwise be provided by the Administrator either in the Deferred Stock Award Agreement or, subject to Section 15 below, in writing after the Deferred Stock Award Agreement is issued, a Participant's rights in all Deferred Stock Awards shall automatically terminate upon the Participant's termination of employment (or service as a Non-employee Director) with the Company and its Subsidiaries for any reason.

## SECTION 11. NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR STOCK PROGRAM

Each person who is elected as a Non-employee Director shall be granted on the date of his or her initial election and annually thereafter on the date of the annual stockholders meeting (so long as the Non-Employee Director has then been serving as such for at least three months) (i) a Non-Qualified Stock Option to acquire such number of shares of Stock as may be determined by the Administrator with an exercise price per share for the Stock covered by such Stock Option at least equal to the Fair Market Value on the date as of which the Stock Option is granted, and/or (ii) another Plan Award, as determined by the Administrator in its sole discretion. Such Awards shall vest and be payable and shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as may be determined by the Administrator. Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights granted under this Section 11 may be exercised only by written notice to the Company specifying the number of shares to be purchased. For Stock Options, payment of the full purchase price of the shares to be purchased may be made by one or more of the methods specified in Section 6(a)(iv). A Participant shall have the rights of a stockholder only as to shares acquired upon the exercise of a Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right and not as to unexercised Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights or to shares of Stock subject to other Awards that have not been delivered to the Participant.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan to the contrary, the aggregate grant date fair value (determined pursuant to GAAP) of the shares of Stock of all Awards granted to any Non-employee Director during any single calendar year (excluding Awards made at the election of the Non-employee Director in lieu of all or a portion of annual and committee cash retainers) shall not exceed \$500,000.

## SECTION 12. TRANSFERABILITY; NO REPRICING

(a) Incentive Stock Options. Incentive Stock Options shall not be transferable by the optionee other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution and all Incentive Stock Options shall be exercisable, during the optionee's lifetime, only by the optionee.

(b) Other Awards. Subject to the approval of the Administrator, in its sole discretion, a Participant may transfer his or her vested Awards (other than Incentive Stock Options), but only without receiving any consideration for the transfer, to members of his or her family or to trusts for the benefit of such family members or to such other transferees as are permitted under a U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission Form S-8 registration statement, provided that the transferee agrees in writing with the Company to be bound by all of the terms and conditions of this Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

(c) No Repricing. The exercise price for the Stock to be issued pursuant to an already granted Award may not be lowered without the prior consent of the Company's stockholders. This shall include, without limitation, a repricing of the Award, an exchange program whereby the Participant agrees to cancel an existing Stock Option or SAR having an exercise price that exceeds the Fair Market Value of the underlying Stock in exchange for another Award (including, without limitation, a Stock Option or SAR), cash, other consideration or a combination thereof, or any other action that is treated as a repricing under GAAP. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Section 12(c) does not include any (i) action described in Section 3(c) or Section 3(d) or any action taken in connection with a merger, acquisition, spin-off or similar corporate transaction. For the purpose of clarity, each of the actions described in the prior sentence may be undertaken (or authorized) by the Committee in its sole discretion without stockholder approval.

## SECTION 13. TAX WITHHOLDING

(a) Payment by Participant. Each Participant shall, no later than the date as of which the value of an Award or of any Stock or other amounts received thereunder first becomes includable in the gross income of the Participant for Federal income tax purposes, pay to the Company, or make arrangements satisfactory to the Administrator regarding payment of, any Federal, state, or local taxes of any kind required by law to be withheld with respect to such income. The Company and its Subsidiaries shall, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, have the right to deduct any such taxes from any payment of any kind otherwise due to the Participant. The Company's obligation to deliver stock certificates to any Participant is subject to and conditioned on tax obligations being satisfied by the Participant.

(b) Payment in Stock. Subject to approval by the Administrator, a Participant may elect to have such tax withholding obligation satisfied, in whole or in part, by (i) authorizing the Company to withhold from shares of Stock to be issued pursuant to any Award a number of shares with an aggregate Fair Market Value (as of the date the withholding is effected) that would satisfy the required statutory minimum (to the extent required to avoid adverse accounting or other consequences) with respect to the Company's withholding obligation, or (ii) transferring to the Company shares of Stock owned by the Participant with an aggregate Fair Market Value (as of the date the withholding is effected) that would satisfy the required statutory minimum (to the extent required to avoid adverse accounting or other consequences) with respect to the Company's withholding obligation.

SECTION 14.  
TRANSFER, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, ETC.

For purposes of the Plan, the following events shall not be deemed a termination of employment:

(a) a transfer to the employment of the Company from a Subsidiary or from the Company to a Subsidiary, or from one Subsidiary to another; or

(b) an approved leave of absence for military service or sickness, or for any other purpose approved by the Company, if the employee's right to re-employment is guaranteed either by a statute or by contract or under the written policy pursuant to which the leave of absence was granted or if the Administrator otherwise so provides in writing.

SECTION 15.  
AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION

The Board may, at any time, amend or discontinue the Plan, and the Administrator may, at any time, subject to the terms of the Plan, amend or cancel any outstanding Award for the purpose of satisfying changes in law or for any other purpose, but no such action shall materially adversely affect rights under any outstanding Award without the holder's written consent. If and to the extent determined by the Administrator to be required by (a) the Code to ensure that Incentive Stock Options granted under the Plan are qualified under Section 422 of the Code or ensure that compensation earned under Awards granted under the Plan qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code, if and to the extent intended to so qualify, (b) Section 12(c) of the Plan, or (c) the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, Plan amendments shall be subject to approval by the Company's stockholders entitled to vote at a meeting of stockholders. Nothing in this Section 15 shall limit the Board's authority to take any action permitted pursuant to Section 3(c) or 3(d).

SECTION 16.  
STATUS OF PLAN

Unless the Administrator shall otherwise expressly determine in writing, with respect to the portion of any Award which has not been exercised and any payments in Stock not received by a Participant, a Participant shall have no rights greater than those of a general creditor of the Company. In its sole discretion, the Administrator may authorize the creation of trusts or other arrangements to meet the Company's obligations to deliver Stock or make payments with respect to Awards hereunder, provided that the existence of such trusts or other arrangements is consistent with the foregoing sentence.

SECTION 17.  
MERGER & SIMILAR TRANSACTION PROVISIONS

In contemplation of and subject to the consummation of a consolidation or merger or sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company in which outstanding shares of Stock are exchanged for securities, cash or other property of an unrelated corporation or business entity or in the event of a liquidation or dissolution of the Company or in the case of a corporate reorganization of the Company (in each case, a "Transaction"), the Board, or the board of directors of any corporation or other entity assuming the obligations of the Company, may, in its discretion, take any one or more of the following actions, as to outstanding Awards: (i) provide that such Awards shall be assumed or equivalent awards shall be substituted, by the acquiring or succeeding corporation or other entity (or an affiliate thereof), and/or (ii) upon written notice to the Participants, provide that all Awards will terminate immediately prior to the consummation of the Transaction. In the event that, pursuant to clause (ii) above, Awards will terminate immediately prior to the consummation of the Transaction, all outstanding Awards shall vest 100% immediately prior to their termination. Moreover, in such event, all Awards, other than Options and SARs, shall be fully settled in kind, at such appropriate consideration as determined by the Administrator in

its sole discretion after taking into account any and all consideration payable per share of Stock pursuant to the Transaction (the “Transaction Price”) and all Stock Options and SARs shall be fully settled in kind in an amount equal to the difference between (A) the Transaction Price times the number of shares of Stock subject to such outstanding Stock Options or SARs (to the extent then exercisable at prices not in excess of the Transaction Price) and (B) the aggregate exercise price of all such outstanding Stock Options and SARs. Except as set forth in an applicable Award Agreement, in the event of a Transaction that qualifies as a change in the ownership or effective control of the Company under Code Section 409A or the proposed or final Treasury Regulations thereunder, as applicable, any outstanding Deferred Stock Awards shall be paid out to the Participant, to the extent then vested, upon the date of such Transaction.

## SECTION 18. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) No Distribution; Compliance with Legal Requirements. The Administrator may require each person acquiring Stock pursuant to an Award to represent to and agree with the Company in writing that such person is acquiring the shares without a view to distribution thereof. No shares of Stock shall be issued pursuant to an Award until all Applicable Laws have been satisfied. The Administrator may require the placing of such stop-orders and restrictive legends on certificates for Stock (as described in Section 18(b) below) as it deems appropriate.

(b) Stock Certificates. To the extent the Company uses certificates to represent shares of Stock, certificates to be delivered to Participants under this Plan shall be deemed delivered for all purposes when the Company or a stock transfer agent of the Company shall have mailed such certificates in the United States mail, addressed to the Participant, at the Participant’s last known address on file with the Company. Any reference in this Section 18(b) or elsewhere in the Plan to actual stock certificates and/or the delivery of actual stock certificates shall be deemed satisfied by the electronic record-keeping and electronic delivery of shares of Stock or other mechanism then utilized by the Company and its agents for reflecting ownership of such shares.

(c) Other Compensation Arrangements; No Employment Rights. Nothing contained in this Plan shall prevent the Board from adopting other or additional compensation arrangements, including trusts, and such arrangements may be either generally applicable or applicable only in specific cases. The adoption of this Plan and the grant of Awards shall not confer upon any individual any right to continued employment or service as a director with the Company or any Subsidiary and shall not interfere in any way with the right of the Company or any Subsidiary to terminate the employment of any of its employees at any time, with or without cause or notice.

(d) Trading Policy Restrictions. Awards and related transactions under the Plan shall be subject to such Company insider-trading-policy-related restrictions, terms and conditions as may be established by the Administrator, or in accordance with policies set by the Administrator, from time to time.

(e) Recoupment of Awards. Awards are subject to recoupment in accordance with any Applicable Law and any recoupment policy adopted by the Company from time to time.

## SECTION 19. GOVERNING LAW

This Plan and all Awards and actions taken thereunder shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Delaware, applied without regard to conflict of law principles.

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# DIRECTOR NOMINEES AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

## **ADRIAN D. P. BELLAMY**

Chairman of the Board of Directors

## **LAURA J. ALBER**

Director, President and Chief Executive Officer

## **ROSE MARIE BRAVO CBE**

Director

## **PATRICK J. CONNOLLY**

Director, Executive Vice President,  
Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer

## **ADRIAN T. DILLON**

Director

## **ANTHONY A. GREENER**

Director

## **TED W. HALL**

Director

## **SABRINA SIMMONS**

Director

## **LORRAINE TWOHILL**

Director

## **JANET M. HAYES**

President, Williams-Sonoma Brand

## **DAVID R. KING**

Senior Vice President, General Counsel  
and Secretary

## **SANDRA N. STANGL**

President, Pottery Barn Brands

## **JULIE P. WHALEN**

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer

# DIRECTOR EMERITUS

## **CHARLES E. WILLIAMS**

Founder and Director Emeritus

# CORPORATE INFORMATION

## **CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Williams-Sonoma, Inc.  
3250 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94109

## **STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING**

New York Stock Exchange  
Symbol: WSM

## **CORPORATE WEBSITE**

[williams-sonomainc.com](http://williams-sonomainc.com)

## **STOCKHOLDER/INVESTOR INFORMATION**

[williams-sonomainc.com/investors](http://williams-sonomainc.com/investors)

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, May 29, 2015  
starting at 9:00 a.m. at:  
Williams-Sonoma, Inc.  
3250 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94109

## **TRANSFER AGENT**

Wells Fargo Shareowner Services  
P.O. Box 64854  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164  
800-468-9716 – [shareowneronline.com](http://shareowneronline.com)

## **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Deloitte & Touche LLP  
555 Mission Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

## **TRADEMARKS**

Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, PBteen,  
Williams-Sonoma, Williams-Sonoma Home,  
West Elm, Mark and Graham, Rejuvenation

WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

POTTERY BARN POTTERY BARN KIDS PBTEEN WILLIAMS-SONOMA WILLIAMS-SONOMA HOME WEST ELM MARK AND GRAHAM REJUVENATION

# WSM

WILLIAMS-SONOMA, INC.

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

