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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 21, 2009

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

37-1078406
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

**201 West Main Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 365-4516**

(Address, including zip code and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Van A. Dukeman
President and Chief Executive Officer
First Busey Corporation
201 West Main Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 365-4516**

(Name, address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

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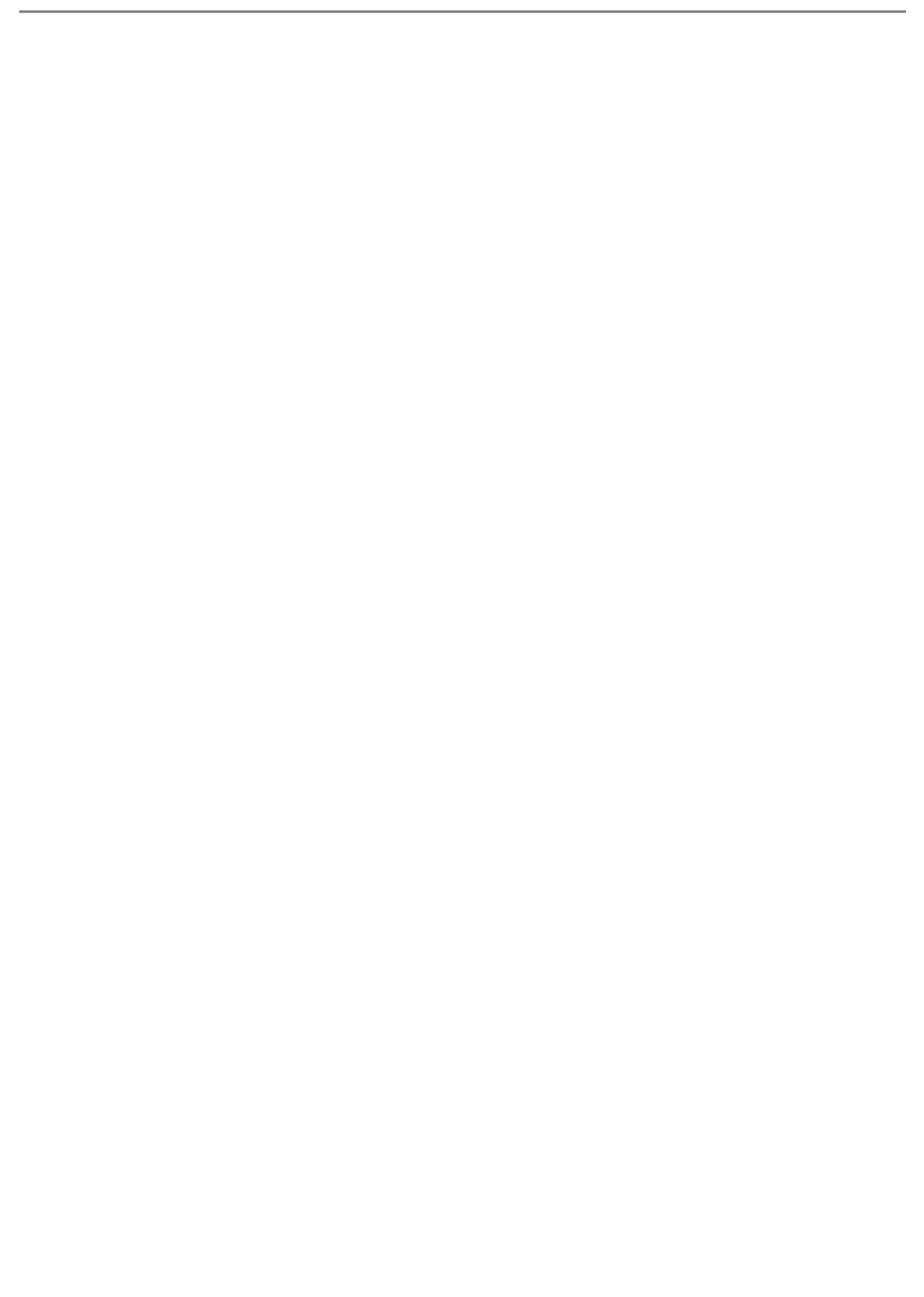
Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.



If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o

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 the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee(1)
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share(2)		\$	\$	
Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value per share(2)				
Debt Securities(3)				
Warrants(4)				
Subscription Rights(5)				
Units				
Depository Shares(6)				
Total:			\$150,000,000	\$8,370

- (1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(o). The proposed maximum offering price per security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance of the securities registered by this registration statement. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price has been estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. In no event will the aggregate maximum offering price of all securities issued under this registration statement exceed \$150,000,000. The amount registered is not specified as to each class of securities to be registered hereunder pursuant to General Instruction II.D to Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933.
- (2) Shares of preferred stock or common stock may be issued in primary offerings, upon conversion of debt securities or preferred stock registered hereby or upon the exercise of warrants or subscription rights to purchase preferred stock or common stock.
- (3) The debt securities to be offered hereunder will consist of one or more series of senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities, or any thereof, as more fully described herein.
- (4) Warrants exercisable for common stock, preferred stock, depository shares or debt securities.
- (5) Rights evidencing the right to purchase common stock, preferred stock, depository shares or debt securities.
- (6) The depository shares registered hereunder will be evidenced by depository receipts issued pursuant to a deposit agreement. If the registrant elects to offer to the public fractional interests in shares of preferred stock, then depository receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional interests and the shares will be issued to the depository under the deposit agreement.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. These securities may not be sold until the registration statement containing this prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED AUGUST 21, 2009

PROSPECTUS

\$150,000,000

First Busey Corporation

**Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Debt Securities
Warrants
Subscription Rights
Units
Depository Shares**

We may offer and sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, together or separately, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. The aggregate initial offering price of the securities that we offer will not exceed \$150,000,000. We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. If an offering of securities involves any underwriters, dealers or agents, then the prospectus supplement will name the underwriters, dealers or agents and will provide information regarding any fee, commission or discount arrangements made with those underwriters, dealers or agents.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. Before investing, you should carefully read this prospectus and any related prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "BUSE." Our principal executive offices are located at 201 West Main Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801 and our telephone number is (217) 365-4516.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should refer to the risk factors included in the applicable prospectus supplement and certain of our periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission and carefully consider that information before buying our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

These securities are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any bank and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2009.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, using a shelf registration process on Form S-3. Under the shelf registration rules, using this prospectus, together with a prospectus supplement, we may sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, on a continuous or delayed basis, the securities described in this prospectus for an aggregate initial offering price of up to \$150,000,000. The registration statement that contains this prospectus (including the exhibits to the registration statement) contains additional information about us and the securities we are offering under this prospectus. You can read that registration statement at the SEC website at <http://www.sec.gov> or at the SEC office mentioned under the heading "Where You Can Find Additional Information."

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell any of these securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements containing specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If information in the prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the information in this prospectus, then the information in the prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede the information in this prospectus. You should carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find Additional Information" before you invest.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it.

You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of that document.

Neither we nor anyone acting on our behalf is making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

In this prospectus, the terms "First Busey," "Company," "we," "us," and "our" refer to First Busey Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries, collectively, unless the context requires otherwise. References in this prospectus to "Busey Bank" mean Busey Bank, an Illinois state bank with its main office in Champaign, Illinois; references in this prospectus to "Busey Bank, N.A." mean Busey Bank, National Association, a national banking association with its main office in Fort Myers, Florida; references in this prospectus to the "Banks" mean Busey Bank and Busey Bank, N.A. Busey Bank and Busey Bank, N.A., currently are our wholly-owned banking subsidiaries. However, we are in the process of merging Busey Bank, N.A. with and into and under the charter of Busey Bank. This merger is expected to be completed on August 28, 2009.

FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION

We are a \$4.3 billion financial holding company headquartered in Urbana, Illinois. We conduct a broad range of financial services through our banking and non-banking subsidiaries. We currently have two wholly-owned banking subsidiaries, Busey Bank, with locations in Illinois, Florida and Indiana, and Busey Bank, N.A., with locations in Florida. We conduct the business of banking and related services through the Banks, trust and investment management services through Busey Wealth Management, Inc. and retail payment processing through FirsTech, Inc. On July 31, 2007, we completed a merger of equals transaction with Main Street Trust, Inc. Main Street Bank & Trust, Main Street's banking subsidiary, was combined with Busey Bank and Main Street Bank & Trust's trust department was combined with Busey Trust Company, a subsidiary of Busey Wealth Management, in November 2007. We currently are in the process of merging Busey Bank, N.A. with and into and under the charter of Busey Bank. The merger is expected to be completed on August 28, 2009. As of June 30, 2009, we had total assets of \$4.3 billion, total deposits of \$3.3 billion and total stockholders' equity of approximately \$529.0 million.

Busey Bank, which was organized in 1868, is an Illinois state-chartered bank with its main office in Champaign, Illinois, and had total assets of \$3.8 billion as of June 30, 2009. Busey Bank has 36 locations, including 34 in Illinois, one in Florida and one in Indiana. Busey Bank, N.A., which was organized in 1999, is a national bank with its main office in Fort Myers, Florida, and had total assets of \$420.1 million as of June 30, 2009. Busey Bank, N.A. has eight locations in Florida. Following the merger of Busey Bank, N.A. with and into and under the charter of Busey Bank, the eight Florida locations of Busey Bank, N.A. will operate as branches of Busey Bank.

The Banks offer a full range of banking services, including commercial, agricultural and real estate loans, and retail banking services, including accepting customary types of demand and savings deposits, making individual, consumer, installment, first mortgage and second mortgage loans, offering money transfers, safe deposit services, IRA, Keogh and other fiduciary services, automated banking and automated fund transfers. The Banks' principal sources of income are interest and fees on loans and investments and service fees. Their principal expenses are interest paid on deposits and general operating expenses. Busey Bank's primary market area is downstate Illinois, southwest Florida through its loan production office and central Indiana. Following the completion of the merger of Busey Bank, N.A. and Busey Bank, Busey Bank's market area of southwest Florida will include the eight locations of Busey Bank, N.A.

Our principal executive offices are located at 201 West Main Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801, and our telephone number is (217) 365-4516.

Additional information about us is included in our filings with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See "Where You Can Find Additional Information" and "Documents Incorporated by Reference" in this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully read and consider the risk factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well as those contained in any applicable prospectus supplement, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. You should also refer to other information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including our financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference herein. Additional risks and uncertainties not known to us at this time or that we currently deem immaterial may also materially and adversely affect our business and operations.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes, which may include, among other things, investments in or advances to our subsidiaries, working capital, capital expenditures, stock repurchases, debt repayment or the financing of possible acquisitions. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of securities by us will identify the use of proceeds for that offering. Until we use the net proceeds from an offering, we may place the net proceeds in temporary investments or deposit them in a bank.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

No shares of our preferred stock were outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004, and we did not pay preferred stock dividends during these periods. Consequently, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for these years are the same as the ratios of earnings to fixed charges.

The following table reflects our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2008. The table also reflects our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the six months ended June 30, 2009 because we paid preferred stock dividends during this period.

	For the six months ended June 30,	For the years ended December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends:						
Excluding interest on deposits	—(1)	—(2)	3.74	3.94	4.50	4.91
Including interest on deposits	0.43	0.45	1.44	1.62	1.88	2.12

- (1) The earnings coverage ratio, excluding interest on deposits, for the six months ended June 30, 2009, was inadequate to cover the fixed charges and preferred stock dividends. The coverage deficiency for the period was \$23.9 million.
- (2) The earnings coverage ratio, excluding interest on deposits, for the year ended December 31, 2008, was inadequate to cover the fixed charges. The coverage deficiency for the period was \$53.5 million.

For purposes of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges:

- earnings represent income from continuing operations before income taxes, plus fixed charges;
- fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits, include interest expense (other than on deposits) and the portion of net rental expense deemed to be equivalent to interest on long-term debt, discount amortization and preferred stock dividends; and
- fixed charges, including interest on deposits, include all interest expense and the portion of net rental expense deemed to be equivalent to interest on long-term debt, discount amortization and preferred stock dividends.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

We have the authority to issue 60,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share. As of June 30, 2009, we had 35,815,892 shares of common stock issued and outstanding. Additionally, as of June 30, 2009, 100,000 shares of preferred stock have been designated Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series T, which we refer to as our Series T Preferred Stock, all of which are issued and outstanding.

The following description of the material terms of our capital stock and of our articles of incorporation and bylaws is only a summary. You should refer to our articles of incorporation and bylaws, which are included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, for their complete terms.

Common Stock

General. Under our articles of incorporation, as amended, we have the authority to issue 60,000,000 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of which 35,815,892 shares were issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2009. As of June 30, 2009, there were 1,967,205 shares of our common stock underlying options that have been issued pursuant to our equity incentive plans and 790,000 shares of our common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity incentive plans. Additionally, we have reserved 1,147,666 shares of our common stock underlying the warrants that are currently held by the U.S. Treasury and issued in connection with our participation in the Capital Purchase Program. Our common stock is listed for trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "BUSE."

Each share of our common stock has the same relative rights and is identical in all respects to every other share of our common stock. Our shares of common stock are neither redeemable nor convertible, and the holders thereof have no preemptive or subscription rights to purchase any of our securities.

Voting Rights. Each outstanding share of our common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors.

Liquidation Rights. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive, *pro rata*, our assets which are legally available for distribution, after payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any holders of preferred stock then outstanding, including the holders of shares of our Series T Preferred Stock.

Dividends Payable on Shares of Common Stock. In general, the holders of outstanding shares of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends out of assets legally available therefor at such times and in such amounts as our board of directors may from time to time determine. The ability of our board of directors to declare and pay dividends on our common stock may be affected by both general corporate law considerations and policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, which we refer to herein as the Federal Reserve, applicable to bank holding companies. As a Nevada corporation, we are subject to the limitations of Nevada law, which allows us to pay dividends unless, after such dividend, we would not be able to pay our debts as they become due in the usual course of business or our total assets would be less than the sum of our total liabilities plus any amount that would be needed if we were to be dissolved at the time of the dividend payment. Additionally, policies of the Federal Reserve caution that a bank holding company should not pay cash dividends unless its net income available to common stockholders over the past year has been sufficient to fully fund the dividends and the prospective rate of earnings retention appears consistent with its capital needs, asset

quality and overall financial condition. The Federal Reserve also possesses enforcement powers over bank holding companies and their non-bank subsidiaries to prevent or remedy actions that represent unsafe or unsound practices or violations of applicable statutes and regulations. Among these powers is the ability to proscribe the payment of dividends by banks and bank holding companies.

Most of our revenues available for the payment of dividends derive from amounts paid to us by the Banks. There are various statutory limitations that limit the ability of the Banks to pay dividends to us. Busey Bank is a state-chartered bank and is subject to the laws and regulations of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and to the regulations of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Busey Bank, N.A., is a national banking association and is subject to the regulations of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, or the OCC. If a bank's primary banking regulator determines that the bank is engaged or is about to engage in an unsafe or unsound banking practice, the regulator may require, after notice and hearing, that the bank cease and desist from such practice. Depending on the financial condition of the bank, an unsafe or unsound practice could include the payment of dividends. In particular, the federal banking agencies have indicated that paying dividends that deplete a bank's capital base to an inadequate level would be an unsafe and unsound banking practice.

Under the Illinois Banking Act, Busey Bank generally may not pay dividends in excess of its net profits. Under the National Bank Act, Busey Bank, N.A. may pay dividends out of its undivided profits in such amounts and at such times as its board of directors deems prudent. Without prior OCC approval, however, Busey Bank, N.A. may not pay dividends in any calendar year that, in the aggregate, exceed its year-to-date net income plus its retained net income for the two preceding years. In addition, because the operations of Busey Bank, N.A. have suffered due to the significant downturn in the real estate market in southwest Florida since 2007, Busey Bank, N.A. currently is not permitted by the OCC to pay dividends. However, as previously discussed, we are in the process of merging Busey Bank, N.A. with and into and under the charter of Busey Bank, which merger is expected to be completed on August 28, 2009. Following the merger, the OCC restriction on dividends by Busey Bank, N.A. will not apply to Busey Bank because Busey Bank is an Illinois-chartered bank.

Furthermore, under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, a bank may not pay a dividend if the payment would cause it to become undercapitalized or if it is already undercapitalized. The federal agencies also have issued policy statements that provide that bank holding companies and insured banks generally should pay dividends only out of current operating earnings.

In addition, the dividend rights of holders of our common stock are qualified and subject to the dividend rights of holders of our Series T Preferred Stock described below under the caption "Description of Series T Preferred Stock—Priority of Dividends and Payments Upon Liquidation." In addition, the securities purchase agreement pursuant to which the U.S. Treasury purchased shares of our Series T Preferred Stock contains limitations on the payment of dividends on our common stock from and after March 6, 2009 (including with respect to the payment of cash dividends in excess of \$0.20 per share, which is the amount of the last quarterly cash dividend declared by us prior to October 14, 2008). Prior to the earlier of (i) March 6, 2012 and (ii) the date on which all shares of Series T Preferred Stock have been redeemed in whole or the U.S. Treasury has transferred the Series T Preferred Stock to unaffiliated third parties, we may not declare or pay any dividend or make any distribution on our common stock other than regular quarterly cash dividends not exceeding \$0.20 per share and dividends payable solely in common stock, without the consent of the U.S. Treasury.

Anti-Takeover Provisions. Our articles of incorporation, as amended, and our by-laws may have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control or an unsolicited acquisition proposal that a stockholder might consider favorable, including a proposal that might result in the payment of a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders. These provisions are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Authorized Shares of Capital Stock. Authorized but unissued shares of our common stock and preferred stock under our articles of incorporation could (within the limits imposed by applicable law and NASDAQ Marketplace Rules) be issued in one or more transactions that could make a change of control of us more difficult, and therefore more unlikely. The additional authorized shares could be used to discourage persons from attempting to gain control of us by diluting the voting power of shares then outstanding or increasing the voting power of persons who would support the board of directors in a potential takeover situation, including by preventing or delaying a proposed business combination that is opposed by the board of directors although perceived to be desirable by some stockholders.

Limitations on Right to Call Special Meetings; Stockholder Proposal Notice Requirements. Under our by-laws, a special meeting of our stockholders may be called only by the Chairman of our board of directors, our Chief Executive Officer or our President after receiving the written request to hold a meeting from: (i) a majority of our board of directors; or (ii) stockholders owning more than 50% of the total voting power of the outstanding stock entitled to vote generally in the election of our directors. Additionally, our by-laws require that stockholder proposals meet certain advanced notice and minimum informational requirements. These provisions could have the effect of delaying until the next annual stockholders meeting stockholder actions which are favored by the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities.

State Anti-Takeover Laws. Although under our articles of incorporation we have opted not to be governed by Nevada's anti-takeover law known as the "Combination with Interested Stockholders Statute," we may become subject to this provision in the future. In addition, the Nevada General Corporation Law contains a "Control Share Acquisition Statute," which does not currently apply to us.

The Combination with Interested Stockholders Statute prevents "interested stockholders" and an applicable Nevada corporation from entering into a "combination" unless certain conditions are met. A combination means any merger or consolidation with an "interested stockholder," or any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition, in one transaction or a series of transactions, with an "interested stockholder" having: (a) an aggregate market value equal to 5% or more of the aggregate market value of the assets of the corporation; (b) an aggregate market value equal to 5% or more of the aggregate market value of all outstanding shares of the corporation; or (c) representing 10% or more of the earning power or net income of the corporation. An "interested stockholder" means the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting shares of a corporation, or an affiliate or associate thereof. A corporation may not engage in a "combination" within three years after the interested stockholder acquires his shares unless the combination or purchase is approved by the board of directors or a majority of the voting power held by disinterested stockholders, or outside three years after the interested stockholder acquires his shares if the consideration to be paid by the interested stockholder is at least equal to the highest of: (a) the highest price per share paid by the interested stockholder within the three years immediately preceding the date of the announcement of the combination or in the transaction in which he became an interested stockholder, whichever is higher; (b) the market value per common share on the date of announcement of the combination or the date the interested stockholder acquired the shares, whichever is higher; or (c) if higher for the holders of preferred stock, the highest liquidation value of the preferred stock.

The Control Share Acquisition Statute prohibits an acquiror, under certain circumstances, from voting shares of a target corporation's stock after crossing certain threshold ownership percentages, unless the acquiror obtains the approval of the target corporation's stockholders. The Control Share

Acquisition Statute specifies three thresholds: one-fifth or more but less than one-third, one-third or more but less than a majority and a majority or more, of the voting power of the corporation in the election of directors. Once an acquiror crosses one of the above thresholds, those shares acquired in such offer or acquisition and those shares acquired within the preceding ninety days become "Control Shares" and such Control Shares are deprived of the right to vote until disinterested stockholders restore the right. The Control Shares Acquisition Statute also provides that in the event Control Shares are accorded full voting rights and the acquiring person has acquired a majority or more of all voting power, all other stockholders who do not vote in favor of authorizing voting rights to the Control Shares are entitled to demand payment for the fair value of their shares. The board of directors is to notify the stockholders after such an event has occurred that they have the right to receive the fair value of their shares in accordance with statutory procedures established generally for dissenters' rights. The Control Share Acquisition Statute currently does not apply to us because we do not have 100 or more stockholders of record who are residents of the State of Nevada.

Preferred Stock

General. We may issue up to 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.001 par value per share, from time to time in one or more series. Our board of directors, without further approval of the stockholders, has the authority to fix the dividend rights and terms, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights and terms, liquidation preferences, sinking funds and any other rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions applicable to each series of preferred stock. The issuance of preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could, among other things, adversely affect the voting power of the holders of our common stock.

A prospectus supplement and any other offering materials relating to any series of preferred stock issued under the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part will specify the terms of the series, including:

- the maximum number of shares in the series and the designation of the series;
- the terms on which dividends, if any, will be paid;
- the terms on which the shares may be redeemed, if at all;
- the liquidation preference, if any;
- the terms of any retirement or sinking fund for the purchase or redemption of the shares of the series;
- the terms and conditions, if any, on which the shares of the series will be convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any other class or classes of common or preferred stock;
- the voting rights, if any, of the shares of the series; and
- any or all other preferences and relative, participating, operational or other special rights or qualifications, limitations or restrictions of the shares.

The description of preferred stock above and the description of the terms of a particular series of preferred stock contained in a prospectus supplement and other offering materials, if any, are not complete. You should refer to the certificate of designations with respect to a series of preferred stock for complete information concerning the terms of that series. A copy of the certificate of designations for each series of preferred stock will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or as an exhibit to a filing incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

Series T Preferred Stock. On March 6, 2009, pursuant to the Capital Purchase Program, we issued to the U.S. Treasury 100,000 shares of Series T Preferred Stock having a liquidation amount per

share equal to \$1,000 for a total price of \$100 million. The Series T Preferred Stock has preferential dividend and liquidation rights over our common stock. The Series T Preferred Stock pays cumulative dividends at a rate of 5% per year for the first five years and thereafter at a rate of 9% per year. The Series T Preferred Stock is non-voting, except in limited circumstances. Prior to March 6, 2012, unless we have redeemed all of the Series T Preferred Stock or the U.S. Treasury has transferred all of the Series T Preferred Stock to third parties, the consent of the U.S. Treasury will be required for us to, among other things, repurchase or otherwise acquire any of our shares of common stock or trust preferred securities, subject to certain limited exceptions. In addition, so long as any shares of our Series T Preferred Stock are outstanding, we may not repurchase or otherwise acquire any of our outstanding common stock unless we are current in our dividend payments on our outstanding Series T Preferred Stock. The terms of the Series T Preferred Stock provide that we may not redeem the Series T Preferred Stock without regulatory approval. The U.S. Treasury has indicated that we are permitted to redeem the shares of Series T Preferred Stock at any time, without penalty or the need to raise additional capital, subject to the U.S. Treasury's consultation with the Federal Reserve Board.

Dividends Payable on Shares of Series T Preferred Stock. Holders of shares of Series T Preferred Stock are entitled to receive if, as and when declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of the board, out of assets legally available for payment, cumulative cash dividends at a rate per annum of 5% per share on a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share of Series T Preferred Stock with respect to each dividend period up to, but excluding, May 16, 2014. From and after May 16, 2014, holders of shares of Series T Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends at a rate per annum of 9% per share on a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share of Series T Preferred Stock with respect to each dividend period thereafter.

Dividends are payable quarterly in arrears on each February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, each a dividend payment date, starting with May 15, 2009. If any dividend payment date is not a business day, then the next business day will be the applicable dividend payment date, and no additional dividends will accrue as a result of the postponement of the dividend payment date. Dividends payable during any dividend period are computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. Dividends payable with respect to the Series T Preferred Stock are payable to holders of record of shares of Series T Preferred Stock on the date that is 15 calendar days immediately preceding the applicable dividend payment date or such other record date as the board of directors or any duly authorized committee of the board determines, so long as such record date is not more than 60 nor less than 10 days prior to the applicable dividend payment date.

If we determine not to pay any dividend or a full dividend with respect to the Series T Preferred Stock, we must provide written notice to the holders of shares of Series T Preferred Stock prior to the applicable dividend payment date. Unpaid dividends on the Series T Preferred Stock will compound. We are subject to various regulatory policies and requirements relating to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums. The Federal Reserve is authorized to determine, under certain circumstances relating to the financial condition of a bank holding company, such as us, that the payment of dividends would be an unsafe or unsound practice and to prohibit payment thereof. See Item 1 of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 under the captions "Supervision, Regulation and Other Factors—First Busey—*Dividend Payments*" and "—the Banks—*Dividend Payments*" for statutory and regulatory restrictions on our ability to pay dividends.

Priority of Dividends and Payments Upon Liquidation. With respect to the payment of dividends and the amounts to be paid upon liquidation, the Series T Preferred Stock will rank:

- senior to our common stock and all other equity securities designated as ranking junior to the Series T Preferred Stock; and

- at least equally with all other equity securities designated as ranking on a parity with the Series T Preferred Stock, or parity stock, with respect to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up.

So long as any shares of Series T Preferred Stock remain outstanding, unless all accrued and unpaid dividends for all prior dividend periods have been paid or are contemporaneously declared and paid in full, we may not pay or declare any dividends on our common stock or other junior stock, other than a dividend payable solely in common stock. We and our subsidiaries also may not purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire for consideration any shares of our common stock or other junior stock unless we have paid in full all accrued dividends on the Series T Preferred Stock for all prior dividend periods, other than:

- purchases, redemptions or other acquisitions of our common stock or other junior stock in connection with the administration of our employee benefit plans in the ordinary course of business pursuant to a publicly announced repurchase plan up to the increase in diluted shares outstanding resulting from the grant, vesting or exercise of equity-based compensation;
- purchases or other acquisitions by any of our broker-dealer subsidiaries, of which we currently have none, solely for the purpose of market-making, stabilization or customer facilitation transactions in junior stock or parity stock in the ordinary course of its business;
- purchases or other acquisitions by any of our broker-dealer subsidiaries, of which we currently have none, for resale pursuant to an offering by us of our stock that is underwritten by the related broker-dealer subsidiary;
- any dividends or distributions of rights or junior stock in connection with any stockholders' rights plan or any redemption or repurchases of rights pursuant to any stockholders' rights plan;
- acquisition of record ownership of junior stock or parity stock for the beneficial ownership of any other person who is not us or a subsidiary of us, including as trustee or custodian; and
- the exchange or conversion of junior stock for or into other junior stock or of parity stock for or into other parity stock or junior stock, but only to the extent that such acquisition is required pursuant to binding contractual agreements entered into before March 6, 2009 or any subsequent agreement for the accelerated exercise, settlement or exchange thereof for common stock.

On any dividend payment date for which full dividends are not paid, or declared and funds set aside therefor, on the Series T Preferred Stock and any other parity stock, all dividends paid or declared for payment on that dividend payment date (or, with respect to parity stock with a different dividend payment date, on the applicable dividend date therefor falling within the dividend period and related to the dividend payment date for the Series T Preferred Stock), with respect to the Series T Preferred Stock and any other parity stock must be declared ratably among the holders of any such shares who have the right to receive dividends, in proportion to the respective amounts of the undeclared and unpaid dividends relating to the dividend period.

Subject to the foregoing, such dividends (payable in cash, stock or otherwise) as may be determined by our board of directors (or a duly authorized committee of the board) may be declared and paid on our common stock and any other stock ranking equally with or junior to the Series T Preferred Stock from time to time out of any funds legally available for such payment, and the Series T Preferred Stock will not be entitled to participate in any such dividend.

Redemption. Except as described below in connection with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which we refer to herein as ARRA, the Series T Preferred Stock may not be redeemed prior to March 6, 2012 unless we have received aggregate gross proceeds from one or more qualified equity offerings (as described below) equal to \$25,000,000, which equals 25% of the

aggregate liquidation amount of the Series T Preferred Stock on the date of issuance. In such a case, we may redeem the Series T Preferred Stock, subject to the approval of the Federal Reserve, in whole or in part, upon notice as described below, up to a maximum amount equal to the aggregate net cash proceeds received by us from such qualified equity offerings. A "qualified equity offering" is a sale and issuance for cash by us after March 6, 2009, to persons other than us or our subsidiaries, of shares of perpetual preferred stock, common stock or a combination thereof, that in each case qualify as Tier 1 capital at the time of issuance under the applicable risk-based capital guidelines of the Federal Reserve. Qualified equity offerings do not include issuances made in connection with acquisitions, issuances of trust preferred securities and issuances of common stock and/or perpetual preferred stock made pursuant to agreements or arrangements entered into, or pursuant to financing plans that were publicly announced, on or prior to October 13, 2008. After March 6, 2012, the Series T Preferred Stock may be redeemed at any time, subject to the approval of the Federal Reserve, in whole or in part, subject to notice as described below.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, under the provisions of ARRA, as implemented by guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury, after consultation with the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve we may redeem the Series T Preferred Stock at any time, from any source of funds and without being subject to any waiting period; provided, that any such redemption must consist of at least 25% of the issue price of the Series T Preferred Stock, which for us represents \$25,000,000. In considering any redemption request, the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve have stated that they will use the existing supervisory procedures for approving redemption requests for capital instruments, which generally will take into account the contribution of the U.S. Treasury's investment amount to our overall soundness, capital adequacy and ability to lend. In any redemption, the redemption price will be an amount equal to the per share liquidation amount plus accrued and unpaid dividends to but excluding the date of redemption.

The Series T Preferred Stock will not be subject to any mandatory redemption, sinking fund or similar provisions. Holders of shares of Series T Preferred Stock have no right to require the redemption or repurchase of the Series T Preferred Stock.

If we seek to redeem fewer than all of the outstanding shares of Series T Preferred Stock, we will select the shares we will redeem either *pro rata* from the holders of record of shares of Series T Preferred Stock in proportion to the number of shares held by those holders or in such other manner as our board of directors or a committee thereof may determine to be fair and equitable. We will mail notice of any redemption of Series T Preferred Stock by first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the holders of record of the shares of Series T Preferred Stock to be redeemed at their respective last addresses appearing on our books. This mailing will be at least 30 days and not more than 60 days before the date fixed for redemption. Any notice mailed or otherwise given as described in this paragraph will be conclusively presumed to have been duly given, whether or not the holder receives the notice, and failure duly to give the notice by mail or otherwise, or any defect in the notice or in the mailing or provision of the notice, to any holder of Series T Preferred Stock designated for redemption will not affect the redemption of any other Series T Preferred Stock. Each notice of redemption will set forth the applicable redemption date, the redemption price, the place of redemption and the number of shares of Series T Preferred Stock we will redeem (and, if less than all shares of Series T Preferred Stock held by the applicable holder, the number of shares we will redeem from the holder).

Shares of Series T Preferred Stock that we redeem, repurchase or otherwise acquire will revert to authorized but unissued shares of our preferred stock.

Liquidation Rights. If we voluntarily or involuntarily liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, holders of Series T Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive an amount per share, referred to as the total liquidation amount, equal to the fixed liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, whether or not declared, to the date of payment.

Holders of the Series T Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive the total liquidation amount out of our assets that are available for distribution to stockholders, after payment or provision for payment of our debts and other liabilities but before any distribution of assets is made to holders of our common stock or any other shares ranking, as to that distribution, junior to the Series T Preferred Stock.

If our assets are not sufficient to pay the total liquidation amount in full to all holders of Series T Preferred Stock and all holders of any shares of outstanding parity stock, the amounts paid to the holders of Series T Preferred Stock and other shares of parity stock will be paid *pro rata* in accordance with the respective total liquidation amount for those holders. If the total liquidation amount per share of Series T Preferred Stock has been paid in full to all holders of Series T Preferred Stock and other shares of parity stock, the holders of our common stock or any other shares ranking, as to such distribution, junior to the Series T Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive all of our remaining assets according to their respective rights and preferences.

For purposes of the liquidation rights, neither the sale, conveyance, exchange or transfer of all or substantially all of our property and assets, nor the consolidation or merger by us with or into any other corporation or by another corporation with or into us, will constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of our affairs.

Voting Rights. Except as indicated below or otherwise required by law, the holders of Series T Preferred Stock will not have any voting rights.

If the dividends on the Series T Preferred Stock have not been paid for an aggregate of six quarterly dividend periods or more (whether or not consecutive) the authorized number of directors then constituting our board of directors will be increased by two. Holders of Series T Preferred Stock, together with the holders of any outstanding parity stock with like voting rights, referred to as voting parity stock, voting as a single class, will be entitled to elect two additional members of our board of directors, referred to as the preferred stock directors, at the next annual meeting (or at a special meeting called for the purpose of electing the preferred stock directors prior to the next annual meeting) and at each subsequent annual meeting until all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past dividend periods have been paid in full. The election of any preferred stock director is subject to the qualification that the election would not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirement of the NASDAQ Global Select Market (or any other exchange on which our securities may be listed) that listed companies must have a majority of independent directors.

Upon the termination of the right of the holders of Series T Preferred Stock and voting parity stock to vote for preferred stock directors, as described above, the preferred stock directors will immediately cease to be qualified as directors, their term of office will terminate immediately and the number of authorized directors of the Company will be reduced by the number of preferred stock directors that the holders of Series T Preferred Stock and voting parity stock had been entitled to elect. The holders of a majority of shares of Series T Preferred Stock and voting parity stock, voting as a class, may remove any preferred stock director, with or without cause, and the holders of a majority of the shares Series T Preferred Stock and voting parity stock, voting as a class, may fill any vacancy created by the removal of a preferred stock director. If the office of a preferred stock director becomes vacant for any other reason, the remaining preferred stock director may choose a successor to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

So long as any shares of Series T Preferred Stock are outstanding, in addition to any other vote or consent of stockholders required by law or by our articles of incorporation, the vote or consent of the holders of at least 66²/₃% of the shares of Series T Preferred Stock at the time outstanding, voting

separately as a single class, given in person or by proxy, either in writing without a meeting or by vote at any meeting called for the purpose, shall be necessary for effecting or validating:

- any amendment or alteration of our articles of incorporation to authorize or create or increase the authorized amount of, or any issuance of, any shares of, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of, any class or series of capital stock ranking senior to the Series T Preferred Stock with respect to payment of dividends and/or distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up;
- any amendment, alteration or repeal of any provision of the certificate of designations for the Series T Preferred Stock so as to adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series T Preferred Stock; or
- any consummation of a binding share exchange or reclassification involving the Series T Preferred Stock or of a merger or consolidation of us with another entity, unless the shares of Series T Preferred Stock remain outstanding following any such transaction or, if we are not the surviving entity, are converted into or exchanged for preference securities and such remaining outstanding shares of Series T Preferred Stock or preference securities have rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers that are not materially less favorable than the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series T Preferred Stock, taken as a whole.

To the extent of the voting rights of the Series T Preferred Stock, each holder of Series T Preferred Stock will have one vote for each \$1,000 of liquidation preference to which such holder's shares of Series T Preferred Stock are entitled.

The foregoing voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the vote or consent would otherwise be required, all outstanding shares of Series T Preferred Stock have been redeemed or called for redemption upon proper notice and sufficient funds have been set aside by us for the benefit of the holders of Series T Preferred Stock to effect the redemption.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

The debt securities will be:

- our direct unsecured general obligations;
- either senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities; and
- issued under separate indentures among us and a trustee which will be named in a prospectus supplement and a supplemental indenture.

We may issue debt securities in one or more series.

If we offer senior debt securities, we will issue them under a senior indenture. If we issue subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debentures, we will issue them under a subordinated indenture. A form of each indenture will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or as an exhibit to a filing incorporated by reference in the registration statement. We have not restated the contemplated terms of either indenture in its entirety in this description. Investors in any debt securities we may issue should read the relevant indenture because it, and not this description, will control their rights as holders of the debt securities. Capitalized terms used in the summary have the meanings specified in the indentures.

Because we are a holding company, our right, and accordingly, the right of our creditors and stockholders, including the holders of the securities offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, to participate in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon its liquidation, reorganization or similar proceeding is subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent that our claims as a creditor of the subsidiary may be recognized.

Specific Terms of Each Series of Debt Securities in the Prospectus Supplement

A prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities being offered will describe the specific terms of the debt securities being offered. These terms will include some or all of the following, as applicable:

- the issuer of the debt securities;
- the co-issuers of the debt securities, if any;
- the guarantors of the debt securities, if any;
- whether the debt securities are senior or subordinated debt securities and, if subordinated debt securities, whether or not they are junior to any other subordinated debt securities;
- the title of the debt securities;
- the total principal amount of the debt securities;
- the process to authenticate and deliver the debt securities and the application of the proceeds thereof;
- the assets, if any, that are pledged as security for the payment of the debt securities;
- the terms of any release, or the release and substitution of, any assets pledged as security for the payment of the debt securities;
- whether we will issue the debt securities in individual certificates to each holder in registered form, or in the form of temporary or permanent global securities held by a depository on behalf of holders;

- the prices at which we will issue the debt securities;
- the portion of the principal amount that will be payable if the maturity of the debt securities is accelerated;
- the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities will be payable, if not U.S. dollars;
- the dates on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable;
- the interest rate that the debt securities will bear and the interest payment dates for the debt securities;
- any conversion or exchange provisions;
- any optional redemption provisions;
- any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to repurchase or otherwise redeem the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities will be convertible into shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock or depositary shares and, if so, the terms and conditions of any such conversion, and, if convertible into shares of preferred stock or depositary shares, the terms of such preferred stock or depositary shares
- any changes to or additional events of default or covenants; and
- any other terms of the debt securities.

We may offer and sell debt securities, including original issue discount debt securities, at a substantial discount below their principal amount. The relevant prospectus supplement will describe certain U.S. federal income tax and any other considerations applicable to those securities. In addition, the prospectus supplement may describe certain U.S. federal income tax or other considerations applicable to any debt securities that are denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars.

Guarantees

If specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities, subsidiaries of ours that are specified in the prospectus supplement may unconditionally guarantee to each holder and the trustee, on a joint and several basis (but subject, with respect to the Banks, to obtaining any required regulatory approvals), the full and prompt payment of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities of that series when and as the same become due and payable, whether at maturity, upon redemption or repurchase, by declaration of acceleration or otherwise. If a series of debt securities is guaranteed, such series may be guaranteed by all subsidiaries other than subsidiaries without material assets. The prospectus supplement will describe any limitation on the maximum amount of any particular guarantee and the conditions under which guarantees may be released.

The guarantees will be general obligations of the guarantors. Guarantees of subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to the senior indebtedness of the guarantors on the same basis as the subordinated debt securities are subordinated to the senior indebtedness of the issuer. "Senior indebtedness" will be defined in a supplemental indenture or authorizing resolutions respecting any issuance of a series of subordinated debt securities, and the definition will be set forth in the prospectus supplement.

Consolidation, Merger or Asset Sale

Each indenture will, in general, allow us to consolidate or merge with or into another domestic entity. It will also allow us to sell, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets to another domestic entity. If this happens, the remaining or acquiring entity must assume all of

our responsibilities and liabilities under the indenture including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of applicable indenture covenants.

However, each indenture will impose requirements with respect to any consolidation or merger with or into an entity, or any sale, lease, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets, including:

- the remaining or acquiring entity must be organized under the laws of the United States, any state or the District of Columbia;
- the remaining or acquiring entity must assume our obligations under the indenture; and
- immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default may exist.

The remaining or acquiring entity will be substituted for us in the indenture with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indenture, and we will be relieved from any further obligations under the indenture.

No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control

Unless otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions that protect the holders of the debt securities in the event of a change of control of us or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, whether or not such transaction results in a change of control of us.

Modification of Indentures

We may supplement or amend an indenture if the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series issued under the indenture affected by the supplement or amendment consent to it. Further, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive past defaults under the indenture and compliance by us with our covenants with respect to the debt securities of that series only. Those holders may not, however, waive any default in any payment on any debt security of that series or compliance with a provision that cannot be supplemented or amended without the consent of each holder affected. Without the consent of each outstanding debt security affected, no modification of an indenture or waiver may:

- reduce the principal amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver;
- reduce the principal of or change the fixed maturity of any debt security;
- reduce or waive the premium payable upon redemption or alter or waive the provisions with respect to the redemption of the debt securities (except as may be permitted in the case of a particular series of debt securities);
- reduce the rate of or change the time for payment of interest on any debt security;
- waive an event of default in the payment of principal of or premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities (except a rescission of acceleration of the debt securities by the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from such acceleration);
- except as otherwise permitted under the indenture, release any lien or encumbrance that may have been granted with respect to the debt securities;
- make any debt security payable in currency other than that stated in the debt securities;

- in the case of any subordinated debt security, make any change in the subordination provisions that adversely affects the rights of any holder under those provisions;
- make any change in the provisions of the indenture relating to waivers of past defaults or the rights of holders of debt securities to receive payments of principal of or premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities;
- waive a redemption payment with respect to any debt security (except as may be permitted in the case of a particular series of debt securities);
- except as otherwise permitted in the indenture, release any guarantor from its obligations under its guarantee or the indenture or change any guarantee in any manner that would adversely affect the rights of holders; or
- make any change in the preceding amendment, supplement and waiver provisions (except to increase any percentage set forth therein).

We may supplement or amend an indenture without the consent of any holders of the debt securities in certain circumstances, including:

- to establish the form of terms of any series of debt securities;
- to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;
- to provide for uncertificated notes in addition to or in place of certified notes;
- to provide for the assumption of our or a guarantor's obligations to holders of debt securities in the case of a merger or consolidation or disposition of all or substantially all of our or a guarantor's assets;
- in the case of any subordinated debt security, to make any change in the subordination provisions that limits or terminates the benefits applicable to any holder of senior indebtedness of us, any co-issuer or guarantor, as applicable;
- to add or release co-issuers pursuant to the terms of the indenture;
- to add or release guarantors pursuant to the terms of the indenture;
- to make any changes that would provide any additional rights or benefits to the holders of debt securities or that do not, taken as a whole, materially adversely affect the rights under the indenture of any holder of debt securities;
- to comply with requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;
- to evidence or provide for the acceptance of appointment under the indenture of a successor trustee;
- to add any additional events of default; or
- to secure the debt securities and/or the guarantees.

Events of Default and Remedies

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, an "event of default," when used in an indenture, will mean any of the following with respect to the debt securities of any series:

- failure to pay when due the principal of or any premium on any debt security of that series;
- failure to pay, within 90 days of the due date, interest on any debt security of that series;

- failure to pay when due any sinking fund payment with respect to any debt securities of that series;
- failure to comply with the requirements described under "—Consolidation, Merger or Asset Sale";
- failure to perform any other covenant in the indenture and such non-performance continues for the time period set forth in the indenture;
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; or
- any other event of default provided under the terms of the debt securities of that series.

An event of default for a particular series of debt securities will not necessarily constitute an event of default for any other series of debt securities issued under an indenture. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default (except in the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest) if it considers such withholding of notice to be in the best interests of the holders.

Other than its duties in case of a default, a trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under either indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders, unless the holders offer the trustee reasonable security or indemnity. If they provide this reasonable security or indemnification, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of any series of debt securities may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding or any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any power conferred upon the trustee, for that series of debt securities.

No Limit on Amount of Debt Securities

The indenture will not limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue, unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement. The indenture will allow us to issue debt securities of any series up to the aggregate principal amount that we authorize.

Registration of Notes

We will issue debt securities of a series only in registered form, without coupons, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement.

Minimum Denominations

Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, the debt securities will be issued only in principal amounts in integral multiples of \$1,000.

No Personal Liability

None of the past, present or future incorporators, directors, officers, employees, stockholders, managers, members or trustees of us, any co-issuer or any guarantor will have any liability for the obligations of our company, any co-issuer or any guarantors under the indenture or the debt securities or for any claim based on such obligations or their creation. Each holder of debt securities by accepting a debt security waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issuance of the debt securities. The waiver may not be effective with respect to claims arising under federal securities laws, however, and it is the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

Payment and Transfer

The trustee initially will act as paying agent and registrar under each indenture. The issuers may change the paying agent or registrar without prior notice to the holders of debt securities, and the issuers or any of their subsidiaries may act as paying agent or registrar.

If a holder of debt securities has given wire transfer instructions to the issuers, the issuers will make all payments on the debt securities in accordance with those instructions. All other payments on the debt securities will be made at the corporate trust office of the trustee, unless we elect to make interest payments by check mailed to the holders at their addresses set forth in the debt security register.

The trustee and any paying agent will repay to us upon request any funds held by them for payments on the debt securities that remain unclaimed for two years after the date upon which that payment has become due. After payment to us, holders entitled to the money must look to us for payment as general creditors.

Exchange, Registration and Transfer

Debt securities of any series may be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series, the same total principal amount and the same terms but in different authorized denominations in accordance with the indenture. Holders may present debt securities for exchange or registration of transfer at the office of the registrar. The registrar will effect the transfer or exchange when it is satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request. We will not charge a service fee for any registration of transfer or exchange of the debt securities. We may, however, require the payment of any tax or other governmental charge payable for that registration.

Unless the prospectus supplement and the indenture state otherwise, we will not be required:

- to issue, register the transfer of, or exchange debt securities of a series either during a period beginning 15 business days prior to the selection of debt securities of that series for redemption and ending on the close of business on the day of mailing of the relevant notice of redemption or repurchase, or between a record date and the next succeeding interest payment date; or
- to register the transfer of or exchange any debt security called for redemption or repurchase, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security we are redeeming or repurchasing in part.

Provisions Relating only to Senior Debt Securities

Senior debt securities will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. Any senior debt securities will be effectively subordinated, however, to all of our secured debt to the extent of the value of the collateral for that debt. We will disclose the amount of our secured debt in the prospectus supplement with respect to the issuance of any senior debt securities.

Provisions Relating only to the Subordinated Debt Securities

Subordination. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate to all of our existing and future senior debt. "Senior debt" includes senior debt securities and means:

- any of our indebtedness for borrowed or purchased money, whether or not evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other written instruments;
- our obligations under letters of credit;
- any of our indebtedness or other obligations with respect to commodity contracts, interest rate and currency swap agreements, cap, floor and collar agreements, currency spot and forward contracts, and other similar agreements or arrangements designed to protect against fluctuations in currency exchange or interest rates; and
- any guarantees, endorsements (other than by endorsement of negotiable instruments for collection in the ordinary course of business) or other similar contingent obligations in respect of

obligations of others of a type described above, whether or not such obligation is classified as a liability on a balance sheet prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles,

in each case whether outstanding on the date of execution of the subordinated indenture or thereafter incurred, other than obligations expressly on a parity with or junior to the subordinated debt securities.

Our junior subordinated debt securities will rank junior to the subordinated debt securities.

If certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur, we will first pay all senior debt, including any interest accrued after the events occur, in full before we make any payment or distribution, whether in cash, securities or other property, on account of the principal of or interest on the subordinated debt securities. In such an event, we will pay or deliver directly to the holders of senior debt any payment or distribution otherwise payable or deliverable to holders of the subordinated debt securities. We will make the payments to the holders of senior debt according to priorities existing among those holders until we have paid all senior debt, including accrued interest, in full.

If such events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur, after we have paid in full all amounts owed on senior debt, the holders of subordinated debt securities, together with the holders of any of our other obligations ranking equal with those subordinated debt securities, will be entitled to receive from our remaining assets any principal, premium or interest due at that time on the subordinated debt securities and such other obligations before we make any payment or other distribution on account of any of our capital stock or obligations ranking junior to those subordinated debt securities.

If we violate the subordinated indenture by making a payment or distribution to holders of the subordinated debt securities before we have paid all of the senior debt in full, then such holders of the subordinated debt securities will be deemed to have received the payments or distributions in trust for the benefit of, and will have to pay or transfer the payments or distributions to, the holders of the senior debt outstanding at the time. The payment or transfer to the holders of the senior debt will be made according to the priorities existing among those holders.

Because of the subordination, if we become insolvent, holders of senior debt may receive more, ratably, and holders of the subordinated debt securities having a claim pursuant to those securities may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors.

No Limitation on Amount of Senior Debt. The subordinated indenture will not limit the amount of senior debt that we, any co-issuer or any guarantor may incur, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement.

Book Entry, Delivery and Form

The debt securities of a particular series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global certificates that will be deposited with the trustee as custodian for The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, or DTC. This means that we would not issue certificates to each holder. Instead, one or more global debt securities would be issued to DTC, which would keep a computerized record of its participants (for example, your broker) whose clients have purchased the debt securities. The participant would then keep a record of its clients who purchased the debt securities. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for a certificated debt security, a global debt security may not be transferred, except that DTC, its nominees and their successors may transfer a global debt security as a whole to one another.

Beneficial interests in global debt securities will be shown on, and transfers of global debt securities will be made only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants.

DTC has provided us the following information: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New

York Banking Law, a member of the United States Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered under the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds securities that its participants, which are referred to as direct participants, deposit with DTC. DTC also records the settlement among direct participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through computerized records for direct participants' accounts. This eliminates the need to exchange certificates. Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

DTC's book entry system is also used by other organizations such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that work through a direct participant. The rules that apply to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

We will wire all payments on global debt securities to DTC's nominee. We and the trustee will treat DTC's nominee as the owner of the global debt securities for all purposes. Accordingly, we, the trustee and any paying agent will have no direct responsibility or liability to pay amounts due on the global debt securities to owners of beneficial interests in the global debt securities.

It is DTC's current practice, upon receipt of any payment on global debt securities, to credit direct participants' accounts on the payment date according to their respective holdings of beneficial interests in the global debt securities as shown on DTC's records. In addition, it is DTC's current practice to assign any consenting or voting rights to direct participants whose accounts are credited with debt securities on a record date, by using an omnibus proxy. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global debt securities, and voting by participants, will be governed by the customary practices between the participants and owners of beneficial interests, as is the case with debt securities held for the account of customers registered in "street name." However, payments will be the responsibility of the participants and not of DTC, the trustee or us.

Debt securities represented by a global debt security will be exchangeable for certificated debt securities with the same terms in authorized denominations only if:

- DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under applicable law and, in either event, a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days; or
- we determine not to require all of the debt securities of a series to be represented by a global debt security.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance

Each indenture will be discharged and will cease to be of further effect as to all outstanding debt securities of any series issued thereunder, when:

- either:
 - all outstanding debt securities of that series that have been authenticated (except lost, stolen or destroyed debt securities that have been replaced or paid and debt securities for whose payment money has theretofore been deposited in trust and thereafter repaid to us) have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation; or
 - all outstanding debt securities of that series that have not been delivered to the trustee for cancellation have become due and payable by reason of the giving of a notice of redemption or otherwise or will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the trustee and in any case we have irrevocably deposited or caused to be irrevocably deposited with the trustee as trust funds cash in U.S. dollars, non-callable U.S. government obligations or a

combination thereof, in such amounts as will be sufficient, without consideration of any reinvestment of interest, to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness of such debt securities not delivered to the trustee for cancellation, with respect to principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest to the date of such deposit (in the case of debt securities that have been due and payable) or the stated maturity or redemption date;

- we have paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable by us under the indenture; and
- we have delivered an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel to the trustee stating that all conditions precedent to satisfaction and discharge have been satisfied.

The debt securities of a particular series will be subject to legal or covenant defeasance to the extent, and upon the terms and conditions, set forth in the prospectus supplement.

Governing Law

Unless the prospectus supplement and the indenture state otherwise, each indenture and all of the debt securities will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

The Trustee

We will enter into the indenture with a trustee that is qualified to act under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and with any other trustees chosen by us and appointed in a supplemental indenture for a particular series of debt securities.

Resignation or Removal of Trustee. If the trustee has or acquires a conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee must either eliminate its conflicting interest or resign, to the extent and in the manner provided by, and subject to the provisions of, the Trust Indenture Act and the applicable indenture. Any resignation will require the appointment of a successor trustee under the applicable indenture in accordance with the terms and conditions of such indenture.

The trustee may resign or be removed by us with respect to one or more series of debt securities and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to any such series. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of any series may remove the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series.

Limitations on Trustee if It is Our Creditor. Each indenture will contain limitations on the right of the trustee, if it becomes a creditor of an issuer or a guarantor, to obtain payment of claims, or to realize on property it may receive in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise.

Annual Trustee Report to Holders of Debt Securities. The trustee is required to submit an annual report to the holders of the debt securities regarding, among other things, the trustee's eligibility to serve as such, the priority of the trustee's claims regarding advances made by it, and any action taken by the trustee materially affecting the debt securities.

Certificates and Opinions to Be Furnished to Trustee. Each indenture will provide that, in addition to other certificates or opinions that may be specifically required by other provisions of an indenture, every application by us for action by the trustee must be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of our officers and an opinion of counsel (who may be our counsel) stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent to such action have been complied with by us.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following describes some of the general terms and provisions of warrants we may issue. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities offered by any prospectus supplement and other offering materials, if any, and may be attached to or separate from those securities. Warrants may be issued under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a warrant agent or may be represented by individual warrant certificates, all as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and other offering materials, if any. The warrant agent, if any, for any series of warrants will act solely as our agent and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

A prospectus supplement and any other offering materials relating to any warrants we may issue will specify the terms of the warrants, including:

- the title and aggregate number of the warrants;
- the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;
- the title, amount and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;
- the title, amount and terms of the securities offered with the warrants and the number of warrants issued with each such security;
- the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- the price at which the related securities may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants;
- the exercise period for the warrants;
- the minimum or maximum number of warrants which may be exercised at any one time;
- any applicable anti-dilution, redemption or call provisions;
- any applicable book-entry provisions; and
- any other terms of the warrants.

In connection with the sale of Series T Preferred Stock to the U.S. Treasury described in "Description of Capital Stock—Series T Preferred Stock," we also issued to the U.S. Treasury a warrant to purchase 1,147,666 shares of our common stock, which we refer to herein as the Treasury Warrant. The Treasury Warrant has a 10-year term and is currently exercisable, with an exercise price, subject to anti-dilution adjustments, equal to \$13.07 per share.

Except as otherwise described below pursuant to ARRA, the U.S. Treasury may not transfer a portion or portions of the Treasury Warrant with respect to, or exercise the Treasury Warrant for, more than one-half of the common shares issuable upon exercise of such warrant until the earlier of (i) the date on which we have received aggregate gross proceeds of at least \$100,000,000 from one or more qualified equity offerings (which are generally defined as any offering of perpetual preferred stock or common stock that qualifies as Tier 1 capital to us), or (ii) December 31, 2009. The Treasury Warrant, and all rights under such warrant, are otherwise transferable. If we complete one or more qualified equity offerings on or prior to December 31, 2009 that result in us receiving aggregate gross proceeds equal to at least \$100,000,000, which is equal to 100% of the aggregate liquidation preference of the Series T Preferred Stock, then the number of common shares issuable upon exercise of the Treasury Warrant will be reduced to 50% of the original number. The U.S. Treasury has agreed not to exercise voting power with respect to any common shares issued upon exercise of the Treasury Warrant.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, under the provisions of ARRA, as implemented by guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury, if we redeem 100% of the Series T Preferred Stock prior to March 6, 2012, which

was the earliest date on which we could redeem the Series T Preferred Stock from sources other than the proceeds of a qualified equity offering prior to the enactment of ARRA, we must either repurchase the Treasury Warrant from the U.S. Treasury for its appraised fair market value, which will be determined pursuant to a procedure established by the U.S. Treasury, or issue the U.S. Treasury substitute warrants that are identical to the Treasury Warrant except that the substitute warrants will permit the U.S. Treasury to immediately liquidate the warrants, including by selling them to third-party investors in an auction process.

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS

This section describes the general terms of the subscription rights to purchase common stock or other securities that we may offer to stockholders using this prospectus. The following description is only a summary and does not purport to be complete. You must look at the applicable forms of subscription agent agreement and subscription certificate for a full understanding of all terms of any series of subscription rights. The forms of the subscription agent agreement and the subscription certificate will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or as an exhibit to a filing incorporated by reference in the registration statement. See "Where You Can Find Additional Information" for information on how to obtain copies.

Subscription rights may be issued independently or together with any other security and may or may not be transferable. As part of any subscription rights offering, we may enter into a standby underwriting or other arrangement under which the underwriters or any other person would purchase any securities that are not purchased in such subscription rights offering. If we issue subscription rights, they will be governed by a separate subscription agent agreement that we will sign with a bank or trust company, as rights agent, that will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The rights agent will act solely as our agent and will not assume any obligation to any holders of subscription rights certificates or beneficial owners of subscription rights.

The prospectus supplement relating to any subscription rights we offer will describe the specific terms of the offering and the subscription rights, including the record date for stockholders entitled to the subscription rights distribution, the number of subscription rights issued and the number of shares of common stock that may be purchased upon exercise of the subscription rights, the exercise price of the subscription rights, the date on which the subscription rights will become effective and the date on which the subscription rights will expire, and any certain U.S. federal income tax considerations.

In general, a subscription right entitles the holder to purchase for cash a specific number of shares of common stock or other securities at a specified exercise price. The rights are normally issued to stockholders as of a specific record date, may be exercised only for a limited period of time and become void following the expiration of such period. If we determine to issue subscription rights, we will accompany this prospectus with a prospectus supplement that will describe, among other things:

- the record date for stockholders entitled to receive the subscription rights;
- the number of shares of common stock or other securities that may be purchased upon exercise of each subscription right;
- the exercise price of the subscription rights;
- whether the subscription rights are transferable;
- the period during which the subscription rights may be exercised and when they will expire;
- the steps required to exercise the subscription rights;
- whether the subscription rights include "oversubscription rights" so that the holder may purchase more securities if other holders do not purchase their full allotments; and

- whether we intend to sell the shares of common stock or other securities that are not purchased in the rights offering to an underwriter or other purchaser under a contractual "standby" commitment or other arrangement.

If fewer than all of the subscription rights issued in any rights offering are exercised, we may offer any unsubscribed securities directly to persons other than stockholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, including pursuant to standby arrangements, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

After the close of business on the expiration date, all unexercised subscription rights will become void.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock or warrants or any combination of such securities, including guarantees of any securities.

A prospectus supplement and any other offering materials relating to any units issued under the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part will specify the terms of the units, including:

- the terms of the units and of any of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants and guarantees comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;
- a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units; and
- a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

This section outlines some of the provisions of the deposit agreement to govern any depositary shares, the depositary shares themselves and the depositary receipts. This information may not be complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the relevant deposit agreement and depositary receipt with respect to the depositary shares relating to any particular series of preferred stock. A copy of the depositary agreement and form of depositary receipt relating to any depositary shares we issue will be filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or as an exhibit to a filing incorporated by reference in the registration statement. The specific terms of any depositary shares we may offer will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of that series of depositary shares may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

General

We may offer fractional interests in shares of our preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do, we will provide for the issuance by a depositary to the public of receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of a particular series of preferred stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of such amount as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, which we refer to in this section as the depositary. We will name the depositary in the applicable prospectus supplement. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will have a fractional interest in all the rights and preferences of the

preferred stock underlying the depositary share. Those rights include any dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under the deposit agreement. If you purchase fractional interests in shares of the related series of preferred stock, you will receive depositary receipts as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, you will not be entitled to receive the whole shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares.

Specific Terms of Depositary Shares

Dividends. The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions in respect of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to each record holder of depositary shares based on the number of the depositary shares owned by that holder on the relevant record date. The depositary will distribute only that amount which can be distributed without attributing to any holder of depositary shares a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record holders of depositary shares.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property to the entitled record holders of depositary shares, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution. In that case the depositary may, with our approval, adopt the method it deems equitable and practicable for making that distribution, including any sale of property and distribution of the net proceeds from this sale to the concerned holders.

The deposit agreement will also contain provisions relating to how any subscription or similar rights offered by us to holders of the preferred stock will be made available to the holders of depositary shares.

Conversion or Exchange Rights. If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to conversion or exchange, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the rights or obligations of each record holder of depositary receipts to convert or exchange the depositary shares.

Redemption. If the series of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to redemption, all or a part of the depositary shares will be redeemed from the redemption proceeds of that series of the preferred stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will bear the same relationship to the redemption price per share of preferred stock that the depositary share bears to the underlying preferred stock. Whenever we redeem preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock redeemed. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or *pro rata* as determined by the depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be outstanding. When the depositary shares are no longer outstanding, all rights of the holders will cease, except the right to receive money or other property that the holders of the depositary shares were entitled to receive upon the redemption. Payments will be made when holders surrender their depositary receipts to the depositary.

Voting Rights. When the depositary receives notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock may vote, the depositary will mail information about the meeting contained in the notice, and any accompanying proxy materials, to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to the preferred stock. Each record holder of such depositary shares on the record date, which will be the

same date as the record date for the preferred stock, will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to how the preferred stock underlying the holder's depositary shares should be voted.

Taxation. Owners of depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were owners of the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares. If necessary, the applicable prospectus supplement will provide a description of U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase and ownership of the depositary shares and the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement. The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended by agreement between us and the depositary at any time. However, certain amendments as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement will not be effective unless approved by the record holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then-outstanding. A deposit agreement may be terminated by us or the depositary only if:

- all outstanding depositary shares relating to the deposit agreement have been redeemed; or
- there has been a final distribution on the preferred stock of the relevant series in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our business and the distribution has been distributed to the holders of the related depositary shares.

Charges of Depositary. We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay associated charges of the depositary for the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary shares will pay transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges that are stated to be their responsibility in the deposit agreement.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary. The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us. We may also remove the depositary at any time. Resignations or removals will take effect when a successor depositary is appointed and it accepts the appointment.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered by this prospectus to one or more underwriters or dealers for resale, through agents, directly to purchasers or through a combination of any such methods of sale. The name of any such underwriter, dealer or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities, the amounts underwritten and the nature of its obligation to take the securities will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. We have reserved the right to sell the securities directly to investors on our own in those jurisdictions where we are authorized to do so. The sale of the securities may be effected in transactions: on any national or international securities exchange or quotation service on which the securities may be listed or quoted at the time of sale; in the over-the-counter market; in transactions otherwise than on such exchanges or in the over-the-counter market; or through the writing of options.

In addition, we may issue the securities as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders. In some cases, we or dealers acting with us or on our behalf may also purchase securities and re-offer them to the public by one or more of the methods described above. This prospectus may be used in connection with any offering of our securities through any of these methods or other methods described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We, our agents and underwriters may offer and sell the securities at a fixed price or prices that may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

We may solicit offers to purchase securities directly from the public from time to time. We also may designate agents from time to time to solicit offers to purchase securities from the public on our behalf. If required, the prospectus supplement relating to any particular offering of securities will name any agents designated to solicit offers, and will include information about any commissions we may pay the agents, in that offering.

We may sell securities from time to time to one or more underwriters, who would purchase the securities as principal for resale to the public, either on a firm-commitment or best-efforts basis. If we use underwriters to sell securities, we may enter into an underwriting agreement with them at the time of the sale and will name them in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of the securities, underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the securities for whom they may act as agents. Any underwriting compensation paid by us to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of the securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement to the extent required by applicable law. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions (which may be changed from time to time) from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents.

Dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Act.

If so indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers from certain specified institutions to purchase offered securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. Such contracts will be subject to any conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for solicitation of such contracts. The underwriters and other persons soliciting such contracts will have no responsibility for the validity or performance of any such contracts.

If we offer securities in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders, we may enter into a standby underwriting agreement with dealers, acting as standby underwriters. We may pay the standby underwriters a commitment fee for the securities they commit to purchase on a standby basis. If we do not enter into a standby underwriting arrangement, we may retain a dealer-manager to manage a subscription rights offering for us.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with the Company, to indemnification against and contribution towards certain civil liabilities, including any liabilities under the Securities Act.

To facilitate the offering of securities, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the price of the securities. These may include over-allotment, stabilization, syndicate short covering transactions and penalty bids. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a short position. Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Syndicate short covering transactions involve purchases of securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim selling concessions from dealers when the securities originally sold by the dealers are purchased in covering transactions to cover syndicate short positions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the securities. As a result, these transactions

may cause the price of the securities sold in an offering to be higher than it would otherwise be in the open market. These transactions may be effected on an exchange or automated quotation system, if the securities are listed on that exchange or admitted for trading on that automated quotation system, or in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. These transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued by the underwriters at any time.

The amount of expenses expected to be incurred by us in connection with any issuance of securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Your prospectus supplement may provide that the original issue date for your securities may be more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities. Accordingly, in such a case, if you wish to trade securities on any date prior to the third business day before the original issue date for your securities, you will be required, by virtue of the fact that your securities initially are expected to settle in more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities, to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

Underwriters and agents and their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of their businesses. In connection with the distribution of the securities offered under this prospectus, we may enter into swap or other hedging transactions with, or arranged by, underwriters or agents or their affiliates. These underwriters or agents or their affiliates may receive compensation, trading gain or other benefits from these transactions.

SPECIAL CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus that are not historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and we are including this statement for purposes of invoking these safe harbor provisions. These statements, which are based on certain assumptions and describe our future plans, strategies and expectations, can generally be identified by the use of the words "may," "will," "should," "could," "would," "plan," "potential," "estimate," "project," "believe," "intend," "anticipate," "expect," "target" and similar expressions. These forward-looking statements include statements relating to our projected growth, anticipated future financial performance, management's long-term performance goals, as well as statements relating to the anticipated effects on results of operations and financial condition from expected developments or events, our business and growth strategies and any other statements that are not historical facts.

These forward-looking statements are subject to significant risks, assumptions and uncertainties, and could be affected by many factors. Factors that could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and future prospects can be found in the "Risk Factors" section of a prospectus supplement issued in connection with the issuance of securities and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and elsewhere in our periodic and current reports filed with the SEC.

Because of those risks and other uncertainties, our actual future results, performance or achievements, or industry results, may be materially different from the results indicated by these forward-looking statements. In addition, our past results of operations do not necessarily indicate our future results.

You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the dates on which they were made. We are not undertaking an obligation to update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future, except as required under federal securities law. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are subject to the information requirements of the Exchange Act, which means we are required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at its Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus the information we file with the SEC. This permits us to disclose important information to you by referring to these separately filed documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and the information we file subsequently with the SEC will automatically update the information in this prospectus. This historical and future information that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus is considered to be part of this prospectus and can be obtained at the locations described above under the heading "Where You Can Find Additional Information." The information included elsewhere in this prospectus and the following documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus is considered to be part of this prospectus:

- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2009, including the portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 23, 2009 that are incorporated therein;
- Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on May 11, 2009, and for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2009, filed with the SEC on August 10, 2009;
- Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 4, 2009, February 12, 2009, March 6, 2009, March 9, 2009, April 22, 2009, May 22, 2009, July 22, 2009 and August 20, 2009; and
- Any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) under the Exchange Act, after the date of this document, excluding any document or portion thereof that has been furnished to and deemed not to be filed with the SEC.

Any statement contained in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in any subsequently filed document which also is, or is deemed to be, incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will provide you with a copy of any information that we incorporate by reference into the registration statement on Form S-3 or this prospectus, at no cost, by writing or calling us. Requests for such materials should be directed to:

First Busey Corporation
Attention: Corporate Secretary
201 West Main Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
Telephone number: (217) 365-4516

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with any offering of securities made by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by our special counsel in the State of Nevada, Lewis and Roca LLP. If the securities are being distributed in an underwritten offering, certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by counsel identified in the related prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of First Busey Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, and the effectiveness of First Busey Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, have been incorporated in this prospectus by reference to First Busey's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 in reliance on the report of McGladrey & Pullen LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

PART II
INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following is an estimate, subject to future contingencies, of the expenses to be incurred by us in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered. We will pay all of these expenses. All expenses other than the SEC registration fee are estimated pursuant to the instruction to Item 511 of Regulation S-K.

	<u>Approximate Amount</u>
SEC Registration Fee	\$ 8,370.00
Accounting Fees and Expenses	6,000.00
Legal Fees and Expenses	25,000.00
Miscellaneous	10,000.00
Total	<u>\$49,370.00</u>

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Subsection 1 of Section 78.7502 of the Nevada Revised Statutes Annotated, or the Nevada RSA, empowers a corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, except an action by or in the right of the corporation, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the action, suit or proceeding if that person acted in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, does not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, or that, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, he or she had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Subsection 2 of Section 78.7502 of the Nevada RSA empowers a corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses, including amounts paid in settlement and attorneys' fees actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of the action or suit if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation. Indemnification may not be made for any claim, issue or matter as to which such a person has been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of all appeals therefrom, to be liable to the corporation or for amounts paid in settlement to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action or suit was brought or other court of competent jurisdiction determines upon application that in view of all the circumstances of the case, the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court deems proper.

Section 78.7502 of the Nevada RSA further provides that to the extent a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections 1 and 2 of Section 78.7502, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, a corporation shall indemnify him or her against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense.

Section 78.751 of the Nevada RSA provides that any discretionary indemnification under Section 78.7502, unless ordered by a court or advanced, may be made by a corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances. The determination must be made: (a) by the stockholders; (b) by the board of directors by majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding; (c) if a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding so orders, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (d) if a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the action, suit or proceeding cannot be obtained, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

Section 78.751 of the Nevada RSA further provides that the indemnification provided for by Section 78.7502 shall not be deemed exclusive or exclude any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled and that the scope of indemnification shall continue as to directors, officers, employees or agents who have ceased to hold such positions, and to their heirs, executors and administrators. Section 78.752 of the Nevada RSA empowers a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against such person or incurred by him or her in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liabilities under Section 78.7502.

Article Tenth of our articles of incorporation provides that no director or officer shall be personally liable to the us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director or officer, except for liability (i) for acts or omissions that involve intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of law or (ii) for the payment of distributions in violation of Section 78.300 of the Nevada RSA.

Our bylaws provide that we shall have the power to indemnify and hold harmless any current or former director, officer, agent or employee of the Company to the fullest extent legally permissible under the Nevada RSA from time to time against all expenses, liability and loss (including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid or to be paid in settlement) reasonably incurred or suffered by him in connection therewith. Consistent with the power conferred to corporations under Section 78.751 of the Nevada RSA, our bylaws further provide that our board of directors may in its discretion cause the expenses of officers and directors incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding to be paid by us as they are incurred and in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director or officer to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that he is not entitled to be indemnified by the corporation.

Item 16. Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement.
3.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of First Busey Corporation, together with the Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated July 31, 2007, and the Certificate of Designation for Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series T, dated March 4, 2009 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to First Busey's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2009, and incorporated herein by reference).
3.2	First Busey Corporation Amended and Restated By-Laws (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to First Busey's Form 8-K dated November 18, 2008, filed with the SEC on November 24, 2008, and incorporated herein by reference).
3.3*	Form of Certificate of Designations for issuance of Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value per share.
4.1*	Form of senior indenture.
4.2*	Form of subordinated indenture.
4.3*	Form of senior debt security.
4.4*	Form of subordinated debt security.
4.5*	Form of debt warrant agreement (including debt warrant certificate).
4.6*	Form of preferred stock warrant agreement (including preferred stock warrant certificate).
4.7*	Form of common stock warrant agreement (including common stock warrant certificate).
4.8*	Form of subscription certificate.
4.9*	Form of subscription agent agreement.
4.10*	Form of unit agreement (including unit certificate).
4.11*	Form of depositary agreement (including depositary receipt).
5.1	Opinion of Lewis and Roca LLP (including consent).
12.1	Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends for Six-Month Period Ended June 30, 2009 and for the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004.
23.1	Consent of McGladrey & Pullen LLP.
23.2	Consent of Lewis and Roca LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Power of Attorney (included in the signature page to the registration statement).
25.1*	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of the trustee under the senior indenture and subordinated indenture.

* To be filed by amendment or by report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, to any purchaser:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the

prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. *Provided, however,* that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended), that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in their respective capacities and on the respective dates indicated opposite their names. Each person whose signature appears below hereby authorizes each of Van A. Dukeman and Barbara J. Harrington, each with full power of substitution, to execute in the name and on behalf of such person any post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement and to file the same, with exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, making such changes in this Registration Statement as the registrant deems appropriate, and appoints each of Van A. Dukeman and Barbara J. Harrington, each with full power of substitution, attorney-in-fact to sign any amendment and any post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement and to file the same, with exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ VAN A. DUKEMAN</u> Van A. Dukeman	Director; President and Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer)	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ BARBARA J. HARRINGTON</u> Barbara J. Harrington	Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer and accounting officer)	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ JOSEPH M. AMBROSE</u> Joseph M. Ambrose	Director	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ DAVID J. DOWNEY</u> David J. Downey	Director	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ DAVID L. IKENBERRY</u> David L. Ikenberry	Director	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ E. PHILLIPS KNOX</u> E. Phillips Knox	Director	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ V.B. LEISTER, JR.</u> V.B. Leister, Jr.	Director	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ GREGORY B. LYKINS</u> Gregory B. Lykins	Director	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ AUGUST C. MEYER, JR.</u> August C. Meyer, Jr.	Director	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ DOUGLAS C. MILLS</u> Douglas C. Mills	Director	August 21, 2009
<u>/s/ GEORGE T. SHAPLAND</u> George T. Shapland	Director	August 21, 2009

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* To be filed by amendment or by report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference.

August 21, 2009

First Busey Corporation
 201 West Main Street
 Urbana, Illinois 61801

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-3 of First Busey Corporation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This opinion is being rendered to you in connection with the filing by First Busey Corporation, a Nevada Company (the "Company"), with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") of a registration statement on Form S-3 (which, together with the prospectus and any prospectus supplement relating thereto shall hereinafter be referred to collectively as the "Registration Statement"), pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"). The Registration Statement relates to the registration and proposed issuance and sale from time to time pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of \$150,000,000 aggregate principal amount of (the "Registered Securities"): (a) shares of common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, of the Company (the "Common Stock"), (b) the Company's unsecured debt securities, whether senior or subordinated (the "Debt Securities"); (c) shares of preferred stock, \$0.001 par value per share, of the Company (the "Preferred Stock"); (d) warrants to purchase Common Stock (the "Warrants"); (e) the Company's units comprised of two or more of the Registered Securities in any combination (the "Units"); (f) subscription rights for the purchase of Common Stock (the "Rights"); and (g) depository shares representing Preferred Stock ("Depository Shares"). This opinion is being furnished in accordance with the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act.

We have made such legal and factual investigations as we deemed necessary for purposes of this opinion. We have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of: (a) the Registration Statement; (b) the Company's Articles of the Company, as amended and currently in effect; (c) the Company's Bylaws, as amended and currently in effect; (d) the resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Company dated August 18, 2009; and (e) such statutes as were considered appropriate for purposes of the opinions hereafter expressed. In our investigation, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the proper execution of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to the original documents of all documents submitted to us as copies and the authenticity of the originals of such copies. As to matters of fact, we have relied upon representations of officers of the Company.

In the course of our examination, we have assumed the legal capacity of all natural persons, the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies and the authenticity of the originals of such latter documents. In making our examination of documents executed by parties other than the Company, we have assumed that such parties had the power, corporate or other, to enter into and perform all obligations thereunder and have also assumed the due authorization by all requisite action, corporate or

other, and execution and delivery by such parties of such documents and the validity, binding effect and enforceability thereof on such parties.

Based upon the foregoing, but assuming no responsibility for the accuracy or the completeness of the data supplied by the Company and subject to the qualifications, assumptions and limitations set forth herein, it is our opinion that:

(1) When, as and if (a) appropriate corporate action has been taken to authorize the issuance of Common Stock, (b) any legally required consents, approvals, authorizations and other orders of the Commission and any other regulatory authorities are obtained, (c) Common Stock shall have been duly issued and delivered by the Company against payment therefor in accordance with such corporate action, and (d) certificates representing shares of Common Stock have been duly executed by the duly authorized officers of the Company in accordance with applicable law, then, upon the happening of such events, such Common Stock will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable (provided that the consideration paid therefor is not less than the par value thereof).

(2) When, as and if (a) the appropriate corporate action has been taken by the Company to authorize the form, terms, execution and delivery of any series of Debt Securities, (b) such Debt Securities shall have been issued in the form and containing the terms set forth in the Registration Statement, the applicable indenture and such corporate action, (c) any legally required consents, approvals, authorizations and other orders of the Commission and any other regulatory authorities are obtained, and (d) the Debt Securities have been authenticated by the trustee, then, upon the happening of such events, such Debt Securities will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

(3) When, as and if (a) appropriate corporate action has been taken to authorize the issuance of Preferred Stock, to fix the terms thereof and to authorize the execution and filing of a certificate of designation relating thereto with the Secretary of State of the State of Nevada, (b) such certificate of designation shall have been executed by duly authorized officers of the Company and so filed by the Company, all in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada, (c) any legally required consents, approvals, authorizations and other orders of the Commission and any other regulatory authorities are obtained, (d) Preferred Stock with terms so fixed shall have been duly issued and delivered by the Company against payment therefor in accordance with such corporate action, and (e) certificates representing shares of Preferred Stock have been duly executed by the duly authorized officers of the Company in accordance with applicable law, then, upon the happening of such events, such Preferred Stock will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable (provided that the consideration paid therefor is not less than the par value thereof).

(4) When, as and if (a) the appropriate corporate action has been taken by the Company to authorize the form, terms, execution and delivery of a warrant agreement (including a form of

authorized officers of the Company against payment in the manner provided for in the applicable Warrant Agreement and such corporate action, then, upon the happening of such events, such Warrants will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

(5) When, as and if (a) the appropriate corporate action has been taken by the Company to authorize the form, terms, execution and delivery of a unit agreement relating to Units (including a form of certificate evidencing the Units) (a "Unit Agreement"), (b) any legally required consents, approvals, authorizations and other orders of the Commission and any other regulatory authorities are obtained, and (c) the Units with such terms are duly executed, attested, issued and delivered by duly authorized officers of the Company against payment in the manner provided for in the Unit Agreement and such corporate action, then, upon the happening of such events, such Units will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

(6) When, as and if (a) the appropriate corporate action has been taken by the Company to authorize to authorize the form, terms, issuance and delivery of any Rights, (b) any legally required consents, approvals, authorizations and other orders of the Commission and any other regulatory authorities are obtained, (c) a subscription agent agreement for the Rights has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the rights agent and (d) the instruments representing such Rights have been duly authenticated by the rights agent and duly executed and delivered by the Company against payment therefor in accordance with the terms of such resolutions and the subscription agent agreement and as contemplated by the Registration Statement, such Rights will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

(7) When, as and if (a) the appropriate corporate action has been taken by the Company to authorize the form, terms, execution and delivery of a depositary agreement relating to Depositary Shares (a "Depositary Agreement"), (b) any legally required consents, approvals, authorizations and other orders of the Commission and any other regulatory authorities are obtained, (c) the terms of the Depositary Shares and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the applicable Deposit Agreements, (d) the Preferred Stock represented by the Depositary Shares has been duly delivered to the applicable depositaries and when the depositary receipts evidencing the Depositary Shares have been duly issued against deposit of the Preferred Stock in accordance with the applicable deposit agreements and issued and sold as contemplated by the Registration Statement, the depositary receipts evidencing the Depositary Shares will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

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Our opinions set forth above are subject to: (a) the effect of bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, fraudulent transfer, moratorium or other similar laws relating to or affecting the rights and remedies of creditors; and (b) the effect of general principles of equity, whether considered in a proceeding in equity or at law (including the possible unavailability of specific performance or injunctive relief), concepts of materiality, reasonableness, good faith and fair dealing, and the discretion of the court before which a proceeding is brought. We express no opinion as to waivers of broadly or vaguely stated rights.

We express no opinion concerning the laws of any jurisdiction other than the federal law of the United States of America and Nevada General Company Law. We express no opinion as to the laws of any other jurisdiction and no opinion regarding the statutes, administrative decisions, rules, regulations or requirements of any county, municipality, subdivision or local authority or any jurisdiction.

We express no opinion with respect to any specific legal issues other than those explicitly addressed herein. We assume no obligation to advise you of any change in the foregoing subsequent to the date of this opinion (even though the change may affect any legal conclusion stated in this opinion letter).

We hereby consent to the reference to our firm in the Registration Statement under the caption "Legal Matters" and to the inclusion of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. Our consent to such reference does not constitute a consent under Section 7 of the Act and in consenting to such reference we have not certified any part of the Registration Statement and do not otherwise come within the categories of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act or under the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ LEWIS AND ROCA LLP

LEWIS AND ROCA LLP

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Calculation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends
(Dollars in thousands)

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009	Year Ended December 31,				
		2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Including Interest on Deposits						
Earnings:						
Earnings before income taxes	(23,924)	(53,515)	44,410	43,589	39,894	33,678
Fixed charges and preference dividends	41,670	97,148	100,405	69,851	45,342	30,041
Earnings	17,746	43,633	144,815	113,440	85,236	63,719
Fixed Charges:						
Interest expense	39,940	97,148	100,405	69,851	45,342	30,041
Preference dividends and discount accretion	1,730					
Interest portion of net rental expense	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total interest expense	41,670	97,148	100,405	69,851	45,342	30,041
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends	0.43	0.45	1.44	1.62	1.88	2.12
Excluding Interest on Deposits						
Earnings:						
Earnings before income taxes	(23,924)	(53,515)	44,410	43,589	39,894	33,678
Fixed charges and preference dividends	7,355	15,940	16,208	14,805	11,404	8,605
Earnings	(16,569)	(37,575)	60,618	58,394	51,298	42,283
Fixed Charges:						
Interest expense	5,625	15,940	16,208	14,805	11,404	8,605
Preference dividends and discount accretion	1,730					
Interest portion of net rental expense	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total interest expense	7,355	15,940	16,208	14,805	11,404	8,605
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends	(3.25)	(3.36)	3.74	3.94	4.50	4.91

McGladrey & Pullen

Certified Public Accountants

Consent and Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders
First Busey Corporation
Urbana, Illinois

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-3 of First Busey Corporation of our reports dated March 16, 2009 relating to our audits of the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, included in and incorporated by reference in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of First Busey Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2008.

/s/ McGladrey & Pullen LLP

Champaign, Illinois
August 21, 2009

McGladrey & Pullen LLP is a member firm of RSM International -
an affiliation of separate and independent legal entities.
