

COLONIAL BANCGROUP INC

Form 424B3

April 19, 2007

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**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)  
Registration File No. 333-141731**

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Commercial Bankshares, Inc.

1550 S.W. 57th Avenue

Miami, Florida 33144

April 18, 2007

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of Shareholders of Commercial Bankshares, Inc. ( Commercial ), which will be held on May 21, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. local time. The special meeting will be held at Commercial's executive offices located at 1550 S.W. 57th Avenue, Miami, Florida.

At the special meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote on approval of an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger ), dated as of January 23, 2007, between Commercial and The Colonial BancGroup, Inc. ( BancGroup ). The agreement provides for us to merge with BancGroup. In the Merger, you will receive either 2.0214 shares of BancGroup common stock or \$49.00 cash in exchange for each share of Commercial common stock that you own. You will be allowed to make an election as to how much stock and how much cash you receive. However, under the terms of our agreement with BancGroup, it will not have to pay to Commercial's shareholders more than an aggregate of \$152,433,659 in cash and more than an aggregate of 6,288,355 shares of BancGroup common stock assuming 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock are outstanding at the time of the completion of the Merger. Therefore, if Commercial shareholders in the aggregate elect to receive too much cash or too much stock, the form of consideration that was excessively elected will be reduced, and will instead be paid in the form of consideration that was under-elected on a pro rata basis. Shareholders who do not make an election will be deemed to have elected to receive \$24.50 in cash and 1.0107 shares of BancGroup common stock for each of their shares of Commercial common stock, but are also subject to pro-ration if an excess election occurs. Your election form will be sent to you in a few business days in a separate package. Please take the time to complete and return the proxy card included in this package.

Please see the attached Proxy Statement-Prospectus for a detailed description of the terms of the Merger. Please refer to page 30 of the Proxy Statement-Prospectus for a more complete description of the consideration you will receive at the completion of the Merger.

**Your board of directors has unanimously approved the agreement as being in the best interests of the Commercial shareholders and recommends that you vote in favor of the approval of the agreement.**

Additional information regarding the special meeting, the Merger Agreement, the Merger, Commercial and BancGroup is set forth in the attached Proxy Statement-Prospectus. This document also serves as the prospectus for the shares of BancGroup common stock to be issued in connection with the Merger. BancGroup's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CNB. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ THE ENTIRE PROXY STATEMENT-PROSPECTUS CAREFULLY. IN PARTICULAR, YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE DISCUSSION IN THE SECTION ENTITLED COLONIAL BANCGROUP RISK FACTORS, BEGINNING ON PAGE 11 OF THE PROXY STATEMENT-PROSPECTUS.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Commercial common stock is required to approve the agreement. Accordingly, your vote is important no matter how large or small your holdings may be. Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, you are urged to complete, sign and promptly return the enclosed proxy card to assure that your shares will be voted at the special meeting. If you attend the special meeting, you may vote in person if you wish, and your proxy will not be used.

If you wish to make an election as to the form of consideration that you will receive, you must also complete the election form, which will be mailed to you within the next five business days, and return it to BancGroup's transfer agent by 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2007. If the transfer agent has not received your completed election form by this time, then you will be deemed to have elected to receive \$24.50 and 1.0107 shares of BancGroup common stock for each of your shares of Commercial common stock (subject to pro-ration if there is an excess election of either

cash or BancGroup common stock).

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Armaly  
*Chairman and CEO*

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. These securities are not savings or deposit accounts, and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.**

This Proxy Statement-Prospectus is dated April 18, 2007 and is first being mailed to the shareholders of Commercial on or about April 18, 2007.

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1550 S.W. 57th Avenue

Miami, Florida 33144

**COMMERCIAL BANKSHARES, INC.**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**To Be Held on May 21, 2007, at 11:00 a.m.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the special meeting of shareholders of Commercial Bankshares, Inc. ( Commercial) will be held at the executive offices of Commercial located at 1550 S.W. 57th Avenue, Miami, Florida, on May 21, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., local time, for the following purposes:

1. *Merger.* To consider and vote upon the authorization, adoption and approval of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated January 23, 2007, by and between The Colonial BancGroup, Inc. ( BancGroup ) and Commercial. BancGroup will be the surviving corporation in the Merger. At the time of the Merger, each share of your Commercial common stock will be converted into the right to receive a number of shares of BancGroup common stock and/or cash as determined in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, as described more fully in the accompanying Proxy Statement-Prospectus. The Agreement is attached to the Proxy Statement-Prospectus as Appendix A.

2. *Other Matters.* To transact such other business as may properly come before the Special Meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

We have fixed the close of business on March 23, 2007, as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting. Only our holders of record at the close of business on that date will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

You are cordially invited to attend the special meeting, but whether or not you plan to attend, please complete and sign the enclosed form of proxy and mail it promptly in the enclosed envelope. The proxy may be revoked at any time by filing a written revocation with our president, by executing a later dated proxy and delivering it to our president, or by attending the special meeting and voting in person.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce P. Steinberger  
*President and Corporate Secretary*

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This prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about BancGroup and Commercial that is not included in or delivered with the prospectus. You may request this information at no cost by writing or telephoning BancGroup or Commercial at the following:

**David B. Byrne, Jr.**

**Corporate Secretary and General Counsel**

**The Colonial BancGroup, Inc.**

**100 Colonial Bank Boulevard**

**Montgomery, Alabama 36117**

**(334) 676-5000**

**Bruce P. Steinberger**

**President and Corporate Secretary**

**Commercial Bankshares, Inc.**

**1550 S.W. 57th Avenue**

**P.O. Box 490420**

**Miami, Florida 33144**

**(305) 267-1200**

**In order to obtain information prior to the special meeting, you must make your request by May 11, 2007.**

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER**

**Q: Who is Commercial Bankshares?**

**A: Commercial is a Florida corporation and registered bank holding company under the Federal Reserve Act, as amended.** Commercial's principal asset is all of the capital stock of Commercial Bank of Florida. At December 31, 2006, the Commercial Bank of Florida had 14 banking offices located in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, Florida. At December 31, 2006, Commercial had total assets of \$1.04 billion and shareholders' equity of \$90.2 million.

**Q: Who is Colonial BancGroup?**

**A: Colonial BancGroup is a Delaware corporation organized in 1974 as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Act of 1956, as amended.** Through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Colonial Bank, N.A., Colonial BancGroup conducts a general commercial banking business in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Nevada and Texas. At December 31, 2006, Colonial BancGroup had assets of \$22.8 billion.

As of December 31, 2006, Colonial Bank, N.A. had a total of 305 branches, with 92 branches in Alabama, 166 branches in Florida, 18 branches in Georgia, 15 branches in Nevada and 14 branches in Texas. Colonial Bank, N.A. conducts a general commercial banking business in its respective service areas. Colonial Bank, N.A. offers a variety of demand, savings and time deposit products as well as extensions of credit through personal, commercial and mortgage loans within each of its market areas. Colonial Bank, N.A. also provides additional services to its markets through cash management services, electronic banking services, credit card and merchant services and financial planning services. Information about Colonial BancGroup, and its subsidiary bank, Colonial Bank, N.A., is available at its website at [www.colonialbank.com](http://www.colonialbank.com). Colonial BancGroup common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CNB.

**Q: What is being voted on at the Commercial Bankshares special meeting?**

**A: Shareholders of Commercial are being asked to approve the merger between Commercial and Colonial pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement between such parties dated as of January 23, 2007.** Under the merger agreement, Commercial will merge into Colonial BancGroup. When the merger becomes effective, Commercial will cease to exist as a separate entity and you, as a shareholder of Commercial, will be entitled to receive either 2.0214 shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock or \$49.00 cash for each share of Commercial common stock that you own (or some combination thereof). Under the terms of the merger agreement, Colonial BancGroup is not obligated to pay more than \$152,433,659 in cash and 6,288,355 shares of stock for the outstanding shares of Commercial common stock (assuming 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock are outstanding at the time of the completion of the merger). If Commercial shareholders elect to receive more cash than Colonial BancGroup is required to pay, then Commercial shareholders electing cash will have the amount of cash they will receive reduced and the amount of stock they will receive increased on a pro rata basis. Alternatively, if Commercial shareholders elect to receive more stock than Colonial BancGroup is required to pay, then Commercial shareholders electing stock will have the amount of stock they will receive reduced and the amount of cash they will receive increased on a pro rata basis.

**Q: What should I do now?**

**A: Send in your proxy card.** After reviewing this document, indicate on your proxy card how you want to vote, and sign, date, and mail it in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible to ensure that your shares will be represented at the special meeting.

If you sign, date, and send in your proxy and do not indicate how you want to vote, your proxy will be voted in favor of the merger agreement and the merger. If you do not sign and send in your proxy, and if you do not attend and cast your vote in person at the special meeting, it will have the effect of voting against the merger.

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**Q: When will I receive my election form and what should I do when I receive it?**

**A: Send in your election form with your stock certificate(s).** You should receive your election form in about five business days. You should complete, sign and date your election form and mail it in the envelope that will be provided. Your election form will be sent to Colonial BancGroup's transfer agent. It is not mandatory that you complete an election form, but if you do not complete and return it, your merger consideration for each of your shares of Commercial common stock will be \$24.50 in cash and 1.0107 shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock (subject to pro-ration if there is an excess election of either cash or Colonial BancGroup common stock). Even if you do not desire to make an election as to your desired form of consideration, we ask that you return your election form with your stock certificates as that will aid Colonial BancGroup's transfer agent in the exchange process. You may not make an election after, and any election you have made will be final, at 5:00 p.m. on the business day before the special meeting.

**Q: If my shares are held in street name by my broker, will my broker vote my shares for me?**

**A: Yes, if you give your broker instructions on how to do so.** Your broker will vote your shares of Commercial common stock only if you provide your broker with instructions on how to vote. You should instruct your broker how to vote your shares by following the directions your broker provides. If you do not provide instructions to your broker, your shares will not be voted and this will have the effect of voting against the merger agreement and the merger.

**Q: If my shares are held in street name by my broker, will my broker complete my election form for me?**

**A: Yes, if you give your broker instructions on how to do so.** Your broker will complete your election form only if you provide your broker with instructions on how to do so. You should instruct your broker how to complete your election form by following the directions your broker provides. If you do not provide instructions to your broker, your election form will not be completed and you will receive for each of your Commercial shares \$24.50 and 1.0107 shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock (subject to pro-ration if there is an excess election of either cash or Colonial BancGroup common stock).

**Q: Can I change my mind and revoke my proxy?**

**A: Yes.** You may revoke your proxy up to the time of the special meeting by taking any of the actions explained under "The Special Meeting Solicitation, Voting and Revocation of Proxies" on page 16 of this proxy statement-prospectus, including by giving a written notice of revocation, by signing and delivering a new later-dated proxy, or by attending the special meeting and voting in person.

**Q: Can I change my election form?**

**A: Yes.** You may change your election up to 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2007 by following the instructions under "Proposal 1: The Merger Election of Consideration" on page 30 of this proxy statement-prospectus, including by giving a written notice of revocation or by signing and delivering a new later-dated election form. Extra copies of Election Forms may be obtained from Bruce P. Steinberger at (305) 267-1200.

**Q: Can I vote my shares in person?**

**A: Yes.** You may attend the special meeting and vote your shares in person rather than signing and mailing your proxy card.

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**Q: Should I send in my stock certificates now?**

**A: Do not return your certificates with your proxy card. After you receive your election form, you should complete and sign it and send in your stock certificates with the election form by following the instructions contained in the election form.** If you make no election, after the merger is completed, Colonial BancGroup or its transfer agent will send you written instructions explaining how you exchange your Commercial common stock certificates for certificates representing shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock.

**Q: When do you expect the merger to be completed?**

**A:** We expect the merger to be completed in the late second or early third quarter of 2007. However, the timing of the completion of the merger is dependent on the merger agreement being approved by our shareholders as well as the approval of certain bank regulatory agencies and the satisfaction of other conditions described in this proxy statement-prospectus.

**Q: Whom can I call with questions?**

**A:** If you want additional copies of this document, or if you want to ask any questions about the merger agreement or the merger, you should contact: Bruce P. Steinberger, President and Corporate Secretary of Commercial Bankshares, Inc., Telephone: (305) 267-1200.



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**SUMMARY**

This summary highlights selected information from this proxy statement/prospectus. It does not contain all of the information that will be important to you as you consider your vote. You should carefully read the entire document and the other documents to which we refer. These will give you a more detailed description of the transaction that we are proposing. For more information about Colonial BancGroup, see [Where You Can Find More Information and Information Incorporated by Reference](#) (page 59). Each item in this summary refers to the pages where that subject is discussed in greater detail elsewhere in the proxy statement-prospectus. In this section, the terms [we](#) and [us](#) refer to Commercial Bankshares.

**The Companies**

**100 Colonial Bank Boulevard**

**Montgomery, Alabama 36117**

**(334) 676-5000**

The Colonial BancGroup, Inc. is a \$22.8 billion financial services company providing diversified services including retail and commercial banking, wealth management services, mortgage banking and insurance through its branch network, private banking offices or officers, ATMs and the internet as well as other distribution channels to consumers and businesses. At December 31, 2006, BancGroup's branch network consisted of 305 offices in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Nevada and Texas.

**Commercial Bankshares, Inc.**

**1550 S.W. 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Miami, Florida 33144**

**(305) 267-1200**

Commercial Bankshares is a bank holding company whose wholly-owned subsidiary, Commercial Bank of Florida, provides corporate and retail banking services principally in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, Florida. As of December 31, 2006, Commercial Bankshares' total assets were about \$1.04 billion, deposits were about \$841 million and shareholders' equity was about \$90.2 million.

**Effective Date of the Merger (page 30)**

Assuming all other conditions stated in the merger agreement have been or will be satisfied or waived as of the closing, the merger shall become effective as of the date and time the certificate of merger is accepted for filing by the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware.

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### **The Merger (page 17 and Appendix A)**

The merger agreement is the document that controls the anticipated merger between Commercial and BancGroup. We encourage you to read the entire merger agreement, which is attached as Appendix A.

The merger agreement provides for the following:

Commercial will merge into Colonial BancGroup. When the merger becomes effective, Commercial will cease to exist as a separate entity and you, as a shareholder of Commercial, will be entitled to receive either 2.0214 shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock or \$49.00 cash for each share of Commercial common stock that you own (or some combination thereof). Under the terms of the merger agreement, Colonial BancGroup is not obligated to pay more than \$152,433,659 in cash and 6,288,355 shares of common stock for the outstanding shares of Commercial common stock (assuming 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock are outstanding at the time of the completion of the merger). If Commercial shareholders elect to receive more cash than Colonial BancGroup is required to pay, then Commercial shareholders electing cash will have the amount of cash they will receive reduced and the amount of common stock they will receive increased on a pro rata basis. Alternatively, if Commercial shareholders elect to receive more common stock than Colonial BancGroup is required to pay, then Commercial shareholders electing such common stock will have the amount of common stock they will receive reduced and the amount of cash they will receive increased on a pro rata basis.

As an example, if there are 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock outstanding at the time of the completion of the merger (in which case Colonial BancGroup is not obligated to pay more than \$152,433,659 of the total merger consideration in cash), and the Commercial shareholders make an aggregate cash election of \$200,000,000, then that would be \$47,566,341 more than Colonial BancGroup is required to pay in cash, and would represent approximately 970,742 shares of Commercial common stock. The electing shareholders who had elected cash would have their cash portion of the merger consideration reduced on a pro rata basis and would instead receive an aggregate of 1,962,257 shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock. On an individual basis, each electing shareholder who had elected some portion of his or her merger consideration to be paid in cash would in fact receive cash for 76.2% of the Commercial common stock that he or she had originally elected to be paid in cash and the remaining 23.8% of Commercial common stock that the electing shareholder had requested cash for would be paid in Colonial BancGroup common stock.

Colonial BancGroup will not issue fractional shares in the merger. If the number of shares you are to receive is not a whole number, you will receive \$49.00 cash times the fraction of your Commercial common stock that is not converted into Colonial BancGroup common stock.

### **Effect on Stock Options (page 32)**

As of the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, Commercial directors, executive officers and employees held outstanding options which entitle the holders thereof to acquire up to 424,759 shares of Commercial common stock.

Prior to the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, holders who owned Commercial options granted under the Commercial Bankshares, Inc. 1994 Performance Stock Option Plan and 2004 Employee Stock Option Plans (collectively Employee Stock Option Plans ) were permitted to exercise their vested and unvested options for Commercial common stock through March 14, 2007.

Each holder of Commercial options granted under the Employee Stock Option Plans was given the alternative to exercise his or her Commercial options for the right to receive a cash payment on the Effective Date. The amount of such cash payment is equal to the number of shares of Commercial common stock subject to each Commercial option multiplied by the difference of \$49.00 and the per share exercise price of such Commercial option, less any applicable withholding taxes. Each outside director and Joseph W. Armaly have

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agreed to elect the foregoing cashless exercise alternative with respect to all of their Commercial options. Stock options expiring on or about June 1, 2007 may be exercised by any holder thereof provided the merger has not closed prior to May 25, 2007.

**Comparative Market Prices (page 41)**

Colonial BancGroup's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CNB. On January 22, 2007, the last trading day before we announced the signing of the merger agreement, the closing price of Colonial BancGroup's common stock was \$24.60.

Commercial's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market System under the symbol CLBK. On January 22, 2007, the last trading day before we announced the signing of the merger agreement, the closing price of Commercial's common stock was \$37.50.

The following table summarizes the comparative values of the two stocks just before the merger agreement was signed and the Colonial BancGroup equivalent price per share of Commercial common stock.

BancGroup(1)	Commercial(1)	Equivalent price per Commercial share(2)
\$24.60	\$ 37.50	\$ 49.36

(1) Closing price on January 22, 2007.

(2) If the merger had closed on January 22, 2007, and if you had received the default election, then you would have received 1.0107 shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock and \$24.50 in cash for each share of Commercial common stock you owned on that date.

**Fairness Opinion (page 21 and Appendix B)**

In deciding to recommend the merger to shareholders, Commercial's Board of Directors considered the opinion of its financial advisor, Hovde Financial, Inc., that, based upon and subject to the assumptions made and matters set forth in the written opinion, as of January 22, 2007, the consideration to be received by the shareholders of Commercial in the merger is fair, from a financial point of view, to such shareholders. We have attached as Appendix B the written opinion of Hovde Financial, Inc., dated as of January 22, 2007. You should read it carefully to understand the assumptions made, matters considered and limitations of the review undertaken by Hovde Financial, Inc., in providing its opinion.

**The Special Meeting (page 15)**

We will hold a special meeting of the shareholders of Commercial at 11:00 a.m. local time, on May 21, 2007 at 1550 S.W. 57th Avenue, Miami, Florida. At the meeting, we will ask the shareholders to approve the merger agreement and to act on any other matters that may be put to a vote at the meeting.

**Our Recommendation to our Shareholders (page 28)**

Based on Commercial's reasons for the merger described herein, including the opinion of Hovde Financial, Inc. referred to above, your Board of Directors believes that the merger is fair to you and in your best interests, and unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to approve the merger agreement.

**Record Date; Voting Power (page 15)**

You may vote at the special meeting if you owned Commercial shares as of the close of business on March 23, 2007. You will have one vote for each share of common stock you owned on that date.

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### **Vote Required (page 15)**

If a quorum is present at the special meeting, then the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares will be sufficient to approve the merger agreement. A quorum consists of a majority of the shares outstanding on the record date. On the record date, 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock were outstanding. The directors and executive officers of Commercial own an aggregate of 919,650 shares of Commercial common stock, representing approximately 14.8% of the outstanding shares. These individuals have agreed with Colonial BancGroup to vote their shares in favor of the merger agreement. Accordingly, if these individuals vote as they have agreed with Colonial BancGroup, then the merger agreement will be approved if holders of 2,191,242 of the remaining outstanding shares, representing 35.2% of the total outstanding, also vote to approve the merger agreement. As to other matters that may properly come before the special meeting, such matters shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast affirmatively or negatively, without regard to broker non-votes, as to that matter unless otherwise required by law.

### **Risk Factors (page 11)**

In evaluating the merger and the merger agreement and before deciding how to vote your shares of Commercial common stock at the special meeting, you should read this proxy statement-prospectus carefully and especially consider certain factors, risks and uncertainties discussed in the section entitled Colonial BancGroup Risk Factors beginning on page 11 of this proxy statement-prospectus.

### **Election Form (page 30)**

In a few days you should receive an election form. You may use this form to elect what percentage of cash or Colonial BancGroup common stock you wish to receive for your shares of Commercial common stock. If you do not return an election form by the deadline, then your merger consideration will be the default form of 1.0107 shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock and \$24.50 in cash for each of your shares of Commercial common stock (subject to pro-rata in the case of an over election of cash or common stock). The deadline by which election forms must be received by Colonial BancGroup's transfer agent, Computershare Investor Services, LLC, is 5:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the special meeting. If you choose to receive some portion of your merger consideration in cash, you will be taxed on any gain you realize on the cash that you receive (see Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences on page 33).

Colonial BancGroup is only obligated to pay a certain portion of the total consideration for the outstanding shares of Commercial common stock in cash and a certain portion in common stock. Based on the 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock that were outstanding as of the record date, Colonial BancGroup will pay approximately \$152,433,659 in cash and 6,288,355 shares of Colonial BancGroup common stock. If Commercial shareholders elect to receive too much cash, then all Commercial shareholders electing cash will have their cash election reduced and their common stock election increased on a pro rata basis. Alternatively, if Commercial shareholders elect to receive too much common stock, then all Commercial shareholders electing common stock will have their common stock election reduced and their cash election increased on a pro rata basis. If you have not received an election form within five business days of receiving this proxy statement-prospectus, or if you desire to receive another election form, please contact Bruce P. Steinberger at (305) 267-1200.

### **Exchange of Certificates (page 32)**

Shortly after we complete the merger, Colonial BancGroup, or its transfer agent, will send you detailed instructions on how to exchange your shares. **UNLESS YOU HAVE COMPLETED AN ELECTION FORM AND INCLUDED YOUR COMMON STOCK CERTIFICATES WITH YOUR ELECTION FORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ELECTION FORM INSTRUCTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT SEND US OR BANCGROUP ANY COMMON STOCK CERTIFICATES UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THOSE INSTRUCTIONS.**

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### **Conditions to Completion of the Merger (page 34)**

The completion of the merger depends on meeting a number of conditions, including the following:

the shareholders of Commercial must approve the merger agreement;

all required regulatory approvals must be received, and any waiting periods must have passed;

there must be no governmental order blocking completion of the merger, and no proceedings by a government body trying to block the merger; and

the merger must be completed on or before October 31, 2007, or either party can terminate the merger agreement at will.

Unless prohibited by law, either Commercial or Colonial BancGroup could elect to waive a condition that has not been satisfied and complete the merger anyway. We cannot be certain whether or when any of these conditions will be satisfied, or waived where permissible, or that we will complete the merger.

### **Termination of the Merger Agreement (page 35)**

Colonial BancGroup and Commercial can agree at any time to terminate the merger agreement before completing the merger, even if the shareholders of Commercial have already voted to approve it.

Either company can also terminate the merger agreement:

if the other party has materially breached the merger agreement and has not cured the breach;

if the merger has not been completed by October 31, 2007, (provided that the failure to complete has not been caused by the breach of the company electing to terminate); or

if Commercial enters into a binding agreement with any third party to merge with, or sell control to, that third party. In that event, Colonial BancGroup will have the right to receive a payment of \$12,500,000 from Commercial or its acquirer.

### **Federal Income Tax Consequences (page 33)**

We expect that neither the two companies nor the Commercial shareholders will recognize any gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the merger, except in connection with any cash payment that a Commercial shareholder may receive as merger consideration or for a fractional share. Colonial BancGroup has received an opinion from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP that this will be the case. The tax opinion is based upon customary assumptions contained therein, including the assumption that consideration other than Colonial BancGroup common stock (including cash in lieu of fractional shares, cash consideration in exchange for outstanding options and cash paid to Commercial shareholders that receive cash in the merger) will represent no more than 60% of the total fair market value of all consideration paid to Commercial shareholders in the transaction. The opinion will not bind the Internal Revenue Service, which could take a different view. We expect that any cash received will generally be treated as capital gain for federal income tax purposes.

Determining the actual tax consequences to you as an individual taxpayer can be complicated. For example, the opinion referred to above does not address any tax issues arising under state, local or foreign law. The overall tax treatment applicable to you will depend on your specific situation and many variables not within our control. You should consult your own tax advisor for a full understanding of the merger's tax consequences to you.

**Accounting Treatment (page 40)**

The merger will be accounted for as a purchase. The purchase price will be allocated to the fair value of the net tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired, with any amounts in excess thereof being assigned to goodwill. Goodwill will be recognized unless and until it is deemed to be impaired, in which case the impairment will be measured and any such amount will be charged against current earnings.

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**Interests of Persons Involved in the Merger that are Different from Yours (page 28)**

Certain directors, executive officers and employees of Commercial have interests in the merger that are different from your interests. These differing interests include the following:

Directors, executive officers and employees of Commercial currently hold options to acquire 424,759 shares of Commercial common stock. As of the date of this Proxy Statement Prospectus, each holder of Commercial stock options has elected to exercise his or her Commercial stock options for the right to receive a cash payment on the Effective Date. The amount of such cash payment is equal to the aggregate of the number of shares of Commercial common stock subject to each Commercial stock option multiplied by the difference of \$49.00 and the per share exercise price of such Commercial stock option, less any applicable withholding taxes. However, if the merger has not closed prior to May 25, 2007, the holders of 39,345 stock options will have the right to exercise those options prior to expiration on or about June 1, 2007.

Commercial currently indemnifies its directors and certain officers, employees and agents against loss from claims arising out of their position with Commercial. For a period of six years after the merger, Colonial BancGroup will, subject to some limitations, continue to indemnify those persons against claims that arise from the period when they worked for, or served as directors of, Commercial or Commercial Bank of Florida.

Upon completion of the merger, Commercial employees will either become employees of Colonial BancGroup or one of its subsidiaries and become eligible for Colonial BancGroup's employee benefits, or they will be eligible to receive severance benefits under Colonial BancGroup's severance policy.

Pursuant to their employment agreements with Commercial Bankshares and/or Commercial Bank of Florida, which agreements shall become the obligation of Colonial BancGroup upon completion of the merger, Joseph W. Armaly, Chairman and CEO, Bruce P. Steinberger, President and Corporate Secretary and Barbara E. Reed, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, are expected to be paid \$3,030,014, \$1,177,291 and \$450,000, respectively, immediately after the completion of the merger.

Joseph W. Armaly has entered into a consulting agreement with Colonial Bank, N.A. that will become effective when and if the merger is completed. The agreement provides for a term of two years and an annual base consideration of approximately \$200,000. The agreement also provides that Mr. Armaly will not be considered an employee of Colonial Bank, but rather an independent contractor and outside consultant. The consulting agreement also contains covenants prohibiting Mr. Armaly from soliciting Colonial Bank's customers and employees or competing against Colonial Bank during the term of the consulting agreement.

Steven Capellan has entered into an employment agreement with Colonial Bank that will become effective at the completion of the merger. This employment agreement provides for 18 months of employment at 115% of his current level of salary and at least 100% of his current bonus. The employment agreement also provides for a stock option grant of 7,500 shares of BancGroup's common stock and a signing bonus of 15% of Mr. Capellan's base salary.

Commercial's directors have entered into affiliate agreements with Colonial BancGroup regarding various issues associated with the merger. These agreements provide that each director would, among other things:

agree to vote his shares for the merger;

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not distribute BancGroup common stock issued in connection with the merger except in accordance with certain rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission;

support the business of Colonial Bank, N.A. after the merger, and



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if not also an employee of Commercial, generally not compete with Colonial Bank, N.A. for a period of two years after the effective date of the merger.

### **Dissenters Rights (page 39)**

In connection with the merger, Commercial shareholders are not entitled to exercise dissenters rights of appraisal under Florida law.

### **Where You Can Find More Information (page 59)**

This document incorporates important business and financial information about Colonial BancGroup and Commercial from documents that are not included in or delivered with this document. You can obtain documents regarding BancGroup incorporated by reference in this document (other than certain exhibits to those documents) by requesting them in writing or by telephone from Colonial BancGroup by contacting David B. Byrne, Jr., Corporate Secretary and General Counsel, 100 Colonial Bank Blvd., Montgomery, Alabama 36117, telephone: (334) 676-5000. You can obtain documents regarding Commercial by requesting them in writing or by telephone from Commercial by contacting Bruce P. Steinberger, President and Corporate Secretary, 1550 S.W. 57th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33144, telephone: (305) 267-1200. You will not be charged for any of these documents. **If you would like to request a document, please do so by May 11, 2007, in order to receive it before the special meeting.** You may also find documents regarding BancGroup and Commercial filed or furnished at the Security and Exchange Commission's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### **Recent Developments Colonial BancGroup**

During the second quarter of 2007, Colonial BancGroup intends to issue debt securities which are intended to qualify as regulatory capital and utilize a portion of the proceeds in the Merger. While Colonial BancGroup has initiated the issuance process and does not anticipate any significant difficulties in issuing such securities, the actual form of the debt securities has not been finalized.

### **Precautionary Language Regarding the Merger Agreement**

The merger agreement has been included to provide you with information regarding its terms. It is not intended to provide any other factual information about either Colonial BancGroup or Commercial. Such information can be found elsewhere in this proxy statement-prospectus and in the other public filings that Colonial BancGroup and Commercial make with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which are available without charge at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

The merger agreement contains representations and warranties that its parties made to each other. The assertions embodied in those representations and warranties are qualified by information in confidential disclosure schedules that the parties have exchanged in connection with signing the merger agreement. While Colonial BancGroup and Commercial do not believe that such schedules contain information that the securities laws require to be publicly disclosed, other than information that has already been so disclosed, the disclosure schedules do contain information that modifies, qualifies and creates exceptions to the representations and warranties set forth in the attached merger agreement. Accordingly, you should not rely on the representations and warranties as characterizations of the actual state of facts, since they may be materially modified by the underlying disclosure schedules. These disclosure schedules contain information that has been included in Colonial BancGroup's and Commercial's general prior public disclosures, as well as potential additional non-public information. Moreover, information concerning the subject matter of the representations and warranties may have changed since the date of the merger agreement, which subsequent information may or may not be fully reflected in Colonial BancGroup's and Commercial's public disclosures.

**Table of Contents****Selected Financial Data Colonial BancGroup***Selected Financial Data*

The following table sets forth selected financial data for the last five years:

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	(In thousands, except per share amounts)				
<b>Statement of Income:</b>					
Interest income	\$ 1,455,585	\$ 1,162,055	\$ 848,017	\$ 780,808	\$ 783,431
Interest expense	700,318	452,833	280,769	285,660	328,222
Net interest income	755,267	709,222	567,248	495,148	455,209
Provision for loan losses	22,142	26,838	26,994	37,378	35,980
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	733,125	682,384	540,254	457,770	419,229
Noninterest income	189,222	175,976	153,201	138,627	131,769
Noninterest expense	519,601	515,255	431,649	376,001	318,287
<b>Income from continuing operations before income taxes</b>	<b>402,746</b>	<b>343,105</b>	<b>261,806</b>	<b>220,396</b>	<b>232,711</b>
Applicable income taxes	136,933	114,603	88,929	74,785	80,377
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>	<b>265,813</b>	<b>228,502</b>	<b>172,877</b>	<b>145,611</b>	<b>152,334</b>
<b>Discontinued Operations:(1)</b>					
Loss from discontinued operations, net of income taxes of (\$445) for the year ended December 31, 2002					(846)
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 265,813</b>	<b>\$ 228,502</b>	<b>\$ 172,877</b>	<b>\$ 145,611</b>	<b>\$ 151,488</b>
<b>Earnings Per Common Share:</b>					
Income from continuing operations:					
Basic	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.17	\$ 1.27
Diluted	1.72	1.52	1.31	1.16	1.26
Net income:					
Basic	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.17	\$ 1.27
Diluted	1.72	1.52	1.31	1.16	1.26
Average shares outstanding:					
Basic	153,598	149,053	131,144	124,615	119,583
Diluted	154,810	150,790	132,315	125,289	120,648
Cash dividends per common share	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.52

- (1) During 2000, the Colonial BancGroup exited the mortgage servicing business. The financial results for this line of business have been separately reported as Discontinued Operations for all periods presented.

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	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	(In thousands, except Selected Financial Measures)				
<b>Statement of Condition data at year end:</b>					
Total assets	\$ 22,784,249	\$ 21,426,197	\$ 18,896,610	\$ 16,267,979	\$ 15,814,857
Total loans, net of unearned income:					
Mortgage warehouse loans	281,693	483,701	1,114,923	982,488	1,671,149
Loans, excluding mortgage warehouse loans	15,197,196	14,416,163	11,742,888	10,606,407	10,021,281
Loans held for sale	1,474,000	1,097,892	678,496	378,324	347,101
Non-time deposits	9,092,663	9,012,943	7,546,038	6,017,435	5,041,262
Total deposits	16,091,054	15,483,449	11,863,695	9,918,434	9,410,554
Long-term debt	2,522,273	2,338,831	2,260,957	2,442,235	2,114,624
Shareholders' equity	2,057,335	1,932,691	1,398,291	1,185,452	1,082,899
<b>Average balances:</b>					
Total assets	22,237,690	20,682,310	17,433,571	15,842,491	13,812,032
Interest-earning assets	20,409,906	18,943,511	16,173,539	14,736,974	12,909,926
Total loans, net of unearned income:					
Mortgage warehouse loans	348,024	728,057	1,033,238	1,457,716	1,093,061
Loans, excluding mortgage warehouse loans	14,991,675	13,411,323	11,115,275	10,093,214	9,427,710
Loans held for sale	1,374,115	823,177	497,315	373,226	89,566
Non-time deposits	9,080,151	8,543,542	6,847,334	5,419,445	4,426,020
Total deposits	15,788,319	13,987,525	10,862,040	9,418,926	8,734,296
Shareholders' equity	1,992,772	1,779,081	1,285,772	1,125,296	975,352
<b>Selected Financial Measures:</b>					
Net income to:					
Average assets	1.20%	1.10%	0.99%	0.92%	1.10%
Average shareholders' equity	13.34	12.84	13.45	12.94	15.53
Noninterest income/average assets	0.85	0.85	0.88	0.88	0.95
Noninterest expense/average assets	2.34	2.49	2.48	2.37	2.30
Efficiency ratio	54.94	58.11	59.76	59.11	53.96
Dividend payout ratio	39.53	40.13	44.27	48.28	41.27
Shareholders' equity to assets	9.03	9.02	7.40	7.29	6.85
Tangible capital ratio	6.26	5.97	5.43	5.65	5.31
Book value per share	\$ 13.46	\$ 12.53	\$ 10.45	\$ 9.34	\$ 8.75
Tangible book value per share	\$ 9.05	\$ 8.02	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.11	\$ 6.68
Risk-based capital:					
Tier 1	9.09%	9.15%	8.80%	9.41%	7.85%
Total	11.77	12.17	11.39	12.55	11.01
Tier 1 leverage	7.81	7.77	7.16	7.54	6.98
Total nonperforming assets to net loans, other real estate and repossessions					
	0.16	0.21	0.29	0.65	0.78
Net charge-offs to average loans					
	0.12	0.14	0.19	0.31	0.29
Allowance for loan losses to total loans (net of unearned income)					
	1.13	1.15	1.16	1.20	1.16
Allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans					
	1247	662	548	240	191
Non-GAAP Measures:(1)					
Noninterest income/average assets(2)	0.82	0.85	0.84	0.89	0.78
Noninterest expense/average assets(3)	2.34	2.45	2.43	2.37	2.30
Efficiency ratio(4)	55.39	57.06	59.32	58.92	56.30

- (1) Colonial BancGroup management believes that these non-GAAP measures provide information that is useful to investors in understanding the performance of Colonial BancGroup's underlying operations and performance trends. Specifically, these measures permit evaluation and comparison of results for ongoing business operations, and it is on this basis that Colonial BancGroup management internally assesses Colonial BancGroup's performance.
- (2) Excluded from noninterest income are securities and derivatives gains (losses), net of \$4.8 million, (\$24.7) million, \$7.5 million, \$4.8 million and \$5.7 million for 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively; gain on



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- sale of Goldleaf of \$2.8 million for 2006; gain on sale of branches of \$37.0 million for 2005; and changes in fair value of swap derivatives of (\$12.1) million, (\$0.4) million, (\$6.9) million and \$18.9 million for 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.
- (3) Excluded from noninterest expense are net losses related to the early extinguishment of debt of \$9.6 million and \$7.4 million for the years ended 2005 and 2004, respectively.
- (4) Noninterest income excludes gains (losses) on the sale of securities, derivatives, branches and Goldleaf as detailed in note (2) above. Noninterest expense excludes net losses related to the early extinguishment of debt as detailed in note (3) above.

**Per Share Data**

The table below presents on a per share basis the book value, cash dividends and income from continuing operations of Colonial BancGroup and Commercial on a historical basis and on a pro forma equivalent basis assuming consummation of the merger.

	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2006</b>
<b>Colonial BancGroup Historical:</b>	
Net income:	
Basic	\$ 1.73
Diluted	1.72
Book value at end of period	13.46
Dividends per share	0.68
<b>Commercial Historical:</b>	
Net income:	
Basic	2.08
Diluted	2.00
Book value at end of period	14.89
Dividends per share	0.81
<b>Colonial BancGroup Pro Forma Combined:(a)</b>	
Net income:	
Basic	1.71
Diluted	1.69
Book value at end of period	13.90
<b>Colonial BancGroup Pro Forma Combined Per Equivalent Commercial Share:(a)</b>	
Net income:(b)	
Basic	1.73
Diluted	1.71
Book value at end of period(b)	14.05
Dividends per share(c)	0.69

- (a) The pro forma per share data of Colonial BancGroup and the equivalent pro forma per share data of Commercial have been presented using the assumption that the consideration paid by Colonial BancGroup consisted of 50% cash and 50% common stock.
- (b) Pro forma equivalent per share amounts are calculated by multiplying the pro forma combined total income per share and the pro forma combined total book value per share of Colonial BancGroup by the exchange ratio so that the per share amounts are equated to the respective values for one share of Commercial. For these pro forma equivalent share amounts, a 1.0107 Colonial BancGroup common stock exchange ratio is utilized.
- (c) Pro forma equivalent dividends per share are shown at Colonial BancGroup's common stock dividend per share rate multiplied by the 1.0107 exchange ratio per share of Commercial common stock. Colonial BancGroup presently contemplates that dividends will be declared in the future. However, the payment of cash dividends is subject to Colonial BancGroup's actual results of operations as well as certain other internal and external factors. Accordingly, there is no assurance that cash dividends will either be declared and paid in the future, or, if declared and paid, that such dividends will approximate the pro forma amounts indicated.

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**COLONIAL BANCGROUP RISK FACTORS**

The business of Colonial BancGroup is subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties that could effect its future operations and the value of its common stock. These risks include, but are not limited to the following:

**Industry Factors**

*As a financial services company, Colonial BancGroup's earnings are significantly affected by general business and economic conditions.*

Colonial BancGroup's business and earnings are impacted by general business and economic conditions in the United States and abroad. These conditions include short-term and long-term interest rates, inflation, money supply, fluctuations in both debt and equity capital markets, the strength of the U.S. economy and the local economies in which it operates. For example, an economic downturn, increase in unemployment, or other events that negatively impact household and/or corporate incomes could decrease the demand for Colonial BancGroup's loan and non-loan products and services and increase the number of customers who fail to pay interest or principal on their loans.

*Colonial BancGroup's earnings are significantly affected by the fiscal and monetary policies of the federal government and its agencies.*

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System regulates the supply of money and credit in the United States. Its policies determine in large part Colonial BancGroup's cost of funds for lending and investing and the return it earns on those loans and investments, both of which impact its net interest margin, and can materially affect the value of financial instruments it holds, such as debt securities. Federal Reserve System policies also can affect Colonial BancGroup's borrowers, potentially increasing the risk that they may fail to repay their loans. Changes in Federal Reserve Board policies are beyond Colonial BancGroup's control and difficult to predict or anticipate.

*The financial services industry is highly competitive.*

Colonial BancGroup operates in a highly competitive industry which could become even more competitive as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and continued consolidation. Banks, securities firms and insurance companies can now merge by creating a financial services company called a financial holding company, which can offer virtually any type of financial service, including banking, securities underwriting, insurance (both agency and underwriting) and merchant banking. A number of foreign banks have acquired financial services companies in the United States, further increasing competition in the U.S. market. Also, technology has lowered barriers to entry and made it possible for nonbanks to offer products and services traditionally provided by banks, such as automatic transfer and automatic payment systems. Many of Colonial BancGroup's competitors have fewer regulatory constraints and some have lower cost structures.

*Colonial BancGroup is heavily regulated by federal agencies.*

Colonial BancGroup, its subsidiary bank and certain nonbank subsidiaries are heavily regulated by federal agencies. This regulation is to protect depositors, federal deposit insurance funds and the banking system as a whole, not security holders. Congress and federal regulatory agencies continually review banking laws, regulations and policies for possible changes. Changes to statutes, regulations or regulatory policies, including changes in interpretation or implementation of statutes, regulations or policies, could affect us in substantial and unpredictable ways including limiting the types of financial services and products Colonial Bank may offer and/or increasing the ability of nonbanks to offer competing financial services and products. Also, any failure to comply with laws, regulations or policies could result in sanctions by regulatory agencies and damage to Colonial BancGroup's reputation. For more information, refer to discussions of regulatory considerations contained in Item 1 *Business* and Note 16, *Regulatory Matters and Restrictions* to the financial statements contained in Colonial BancGroup's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

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### **Company Factors**

***Maintaining or increasing Colonial BancGroup's market share depends on market acceptance and regulatory approval of new products and services.***

Colonial BancGroup's success depends, in part, on its ability to adapt its products and services to evolving industry standards. There is increasing pressure on financial services companies to provide products and services at lower prices. This can reduce Colonial Bank's net interest margin and revenues from its fee-based products and services. In addition, the widespread adoption of new technologies, including internet-based services, could require Colonial BancGroup to make substantial expenditures to modify or adapt its existing products and services. Colonial BancGroup might not successfully introduce new products and services, achieve market acceptance of its products and services, and/or develop and maintain loyal customers.

***Colonial BancGroup relies on dividends from its subsidiaries for most of its revenue.***

Colonial BancGroup is a separate and distinct legal entity from its subsidiaries. It receives substantially all of its revenue from dividends from its subsidiaries. These dividends are the principal source of funds to pay dividends on the holding company's common stock and interest and principal on its debt. Various federal and/or state laws and regulations limit the amount of dividends that Colonial BancGroup's bank and certain of its nonbank subsidiaries may pay to the holding company. Also, the holding company's right to participate in a distribution of assets upon a subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization is subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors. For more information, refer to *Payment of Dividends and Other Restrictions* in Item 1 and Note 16, *Regulatory Matters and Restrictions* in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

***Colonial BancGroup's accounting policies and methods determine how it reports its financial condition and results of operations, and such policies may require management to make estimates about matters that are inherently uncertain.***

Colonial BancGroup's accounting policies and methods are fundamental to how it records and reports its financial condition and results of operations. Management must exercise judgment in selecting and applying many of these accounting policies and methods so that not only do they comply with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States but also that they reflect management's judgment as to the most appropriate manner in which to record and report Colonial BancGroup's financial condition and results of operations. In some cases, management must select the accounting policy or method to apply from two or more alternatives, any of which might be reasonable under the circumstances yet might result in Colonial BancGroup reporting materially different amounts than would have been reported under a different alternative. A description of Colonial BancGroup's significant accounting policies may be found at Note 1, *Summary of Significant Accounting and Reporting Policies*, to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Colonial BancGroup's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Colonial BancGroup has identified five accounting policies as being critical to the presentation of its financial condition and results of operations because they require management to make particularly subjective and/or complex judgments about matters that are inherently uncertain and because of the likelihood that materially different amounts would be reported under different conditions or using different assumptions. These critical accounting policies relate to: (1) allowance for loan losses, (2) purchase accounting and goodwill, (3) income taxes, (4) consolidations and (5) stock-based compensation. For more information, refer to *Critical Accounting Policies* in the Management's Discussion and Analysis contained in Colonial BancGroup's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.

***Colonial BancGroup has an active acquisition program.***

Colonial BancGroup regularly explores opportunities to acquire financial institutions and other financial services providers. Colonial BancGroup cannot predict the number, size or timing of future acquisitions. Colonial

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BancGroup's management typically do not comment publicly on a possible acquisition or business combination until there is a signed definitive agreement for the transaction.

Colonial BancGroup's ability to successfully complete an acquisition generally is subject to regulatory approval, and it cannot be certain when or if, or on what terms and conditions, any required regulatory approvals will be granted. Colonial BancGroup might be required to divest banks or branches as a condition to receiving regulatory approval.

Difficulty in integrating an acquired company may cause Colonial BancGroup not to realize expected revenue increases, cost savings, increases in geographic or product presence, and/or other projected benefits from the acquisition. Specifically, the integration process could result in higher than expected deposit attrition (run-off), loss of key employees, the disruption of Colonial BancGroup's business or the business of the acquired company, or otherwise adversely affect its ability to maintain relationships with customers and employees or achieve the anticipated benefits of the acquisition. Also, the negative impact of any divestitures required by regulatory authorities in connection with acquisitions or business combinations may be greater than expected.

### ***Colonial BancGroup's mix of products and customers subject us to potential concentration risk.***

Colonial Bank offers a defined group of products, both retail and commercial, to its customers throughout the branch network. As a result of the products offered and customers served, BancGroup is subject to concentration risk. See *Concentration* discussion within the *Risk Management* section of Management's Discussion and Analysis in Colonial BancGroup's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 for further discussion.

### ***Colonial BancGroup's stock price can be volatile.***

Colonial BancGroup's stock price can fluctuate widely in response to a variety of factors including:

actual or anticipated variations in its quarterly operating results;

recommendations by securities analysts;

new technology used, or services offered, by its competitors;

significant acquisitions or business combinations, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments by or involving us or its competitors;

failure to integrate its acquisitions or realize anticipated benefits from its acquisitions;

operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors deem comparable to it;

news reports relating to trends, concerns and other issues in the financial services industry;

changes in government regulations; and

geopolitical conditions such as acts or threats of terrorism or military conflicts.



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General market fluctuations, industry factors and general economic and political conditions and events, such as economic slowdowns or recessions, interest rate changes or credit loss trends, also could cause Colonial BancGroup's stock price to decrease regardless of its operating results.

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**A WARNING ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Commercial and Colonial BancGroup make forward-looking statements in this document and in Colonial BancGroup's and Commercial's public documents. When Commercial or Colonial BancGroup use words such as anticipate, believe, estimate, may, intend, expect, will, show or other similar expressions, Commercial or Colonial BancGroup refer to events or conditions that are subject to risks and uncertainties. When considering those forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement, which speaks only as of the date made. In addition to the risks identified below, you should refer to Commercial's and Colonial BancGroup's public documents for specific risks which could cause actual results to be significantly different from those expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements. Some factors which may affect the accuracy of the forward-looking statements apply generally to the financial services industries, while other factors apply directly to Commercial or Colonial BancGroup. Any number of important factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

expected cost savings from reorganization into Colonial BancGroup are not fully realized;

deposit attrition, customer loss, or revenue loss following the reorganization into Colonial BancGroup are greater than expected;

the inability of Colonial BancGroup to realize elements of its strategic plan for 2007 and beyond;

deposit attrition, customer loss, or revenue loss in the ordinary course of business;

increases in competitive pressure in the banking industry;

changes in the interest rate environment which adversely affect margins or critical estimates as applied and projected return on investments;

general economic conditions, either nationally or regionally, that are less favorable than expected, resulting in, among other things, a deterioration in credit quality;

management's assumptions and estimates underlying critical accounting policies prove to be inadequate, materially incorrect or are not borne out by subsequent events;

the impact of recent and future federal and state regulatory changes;

current or future litigation, regulatory investigations, proceedings or inquiries;

strategies to manage interest rate risk may yield results other than those anticipated;

changes which may occur in the regulatory environment;

a significant rate of inflation or deflation;

natural disasters in BancGroup's primary market areas that result in prolonged business disruption or materially impair the value of collateral securing loans;

acts of terrorism or war; and

changes in the securities markets.

Many of these factors are beyond Commercial's control and beyond the control of Colonial BancGroup. For a discussion of factors that could cause Colonial BancGroup's actual results to differ, please see the discussions in the sections entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. Commercial and Colonial BancGroup intend for their respective 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. Colonial BancGroup and Commercial do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement.

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**THE SPECIAL MEETING**

**General**

This Proxy Statement-Prospectus is being furnished to the shareholders of Commercial Bankshares, Inc. ( Commercial ) in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Commercial for use at the special meeting of the shareholders of Commercial to be held on May 21, 2007 (the Special Meeting ) and at any adjournments or postponements thereof. The purpose of the Special Meeting is to consider and vote upon the Agreement which provides for the proposed merger (the Merger ) of Commercial with and into The Colonial BancGroup, Inc. ( BancGroup ). BancGroup will be the surviving corporation in the Merger.

**The Board of Directors of Commercial believes that the Merger is in the best interests of the Commercial shareholders and unanimously recommends that shareholders vote FOR the Agreement (item 1 on the proxy card).**

This Proxy Statement-Prospectus is also furnished by BancGroup in connection with the offer of shares of BancGroup common stock to be issued in the Merger. No vote of BancGroup shareholders is required to approve the Merger.

**Record Date; Shares Entitled to Vote; Vote Required**

The Board of Directors of Commercial has fixed the close of business on March 23, 2007, as the date for the determination of shareholders entitled to vote at the Special Meeting (the Record Date ). There were 170 record holders of Commercial common stock and 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock outstanding, each entitled to one vote per share, as of the Record Date. As of the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, all holders of Commercial stock options have agreed to accept a cash-payment in respect of the remaining Commercial stock options (however, if the Merger has not closed prior to May 25, 2007, the holders of 39,345 stock options will have the right to exercise those options prior to expiration on June 1, 2007).

The presence at the Special Meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Commercial common stock on the Record Date is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Special Meeting. In the absence of a quorum, the Special Meeting may be postponed from time to time until Commercial shareholders holding the requisite number of shares of Commercial common stock are represented in person or by proxy. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of Commercial common stock, whether or not present or represented at the Special Meeting, is required to approve the Agreement. Broker non-votes and abstentions will not be counted as votes FOR or AGAINST the proposal to approve the Agreement, and, as a result, such non-votes will have the same effect as votes cast AGAINST the Agreement. Each holder of record of shares of Commercial common stock is entitled to cast, for each share registered in his or her name, one vote on the Agreement as well as on any other matter presented to a vote of shareholders at the Special Meeting.

As of the Record Date, directors and executive officers of Commercial owned 919,650 shares of Commercial common stock, representing approximately 14.8% of the outstanding shares. These individuals have agreed with BancGroup to vote their shares in favor of the Agreement. Accordingly, if these individuals vote as they have agreed with BancGroup, then the Agreement will be approved if holders of 2,191,242 of the remaining shares (35.2% of the total outstanding) also vote to approve it.

If the Agreement is approved at the Special Meeting, Commercial is expected to merge with and into BancGroup promptly after the other conditions to the Agreement are satisfied. See Proposal 1: The Merger Conditions of Consummation of the Merger.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COMMERCIAL URGES THE SHAREHOLDERS OF COMMERCIAL TO EXECUTE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THE PROXY BE VOTED FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT.**

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### **Solicitation, Voting and Revocation of Proxies**

In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, directors, officers and other employees of Commercial, without receiving special compensation therefor, may solicit proxies from the shareholders of Commercial by telephone, by e-mail or other electronic means, by facsimile or in person. Arrangements will also be made with brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries, if any, to forward solicitation materials to any beneficial owners of shares of Commercial common stock. Commercial will reimburse such custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in connection therewith.

BancGroup will bear the cost of assembling and mailing this Proxy Statement-Prospectus and other materials furnished to Commercial's shareholders. BancGroup will also pay all other expenses of solicitation. BancGroup will pay all expenses incident to the registration of the BancGroup common stock to be issued in connection with the Merger.

Commercial has retained Mellon Investor Services, Inc. to assist with the solicitation of proxies for a fee not to exceed \$7,500, plus reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

Shares of Commercial common stock represented by a proxy properly signed and received at or prior to the Special Meeting, unless properly revoked, will be voted in accordance with the instructions on the proxy. If a proxy is signed and returned without any voting instructions, shares of Commercial common stock represented by the proxy will be voted FOR the proposal to approve the Agreement and in accordance with the determination of the majority of the Board of Directors of Commercial as to any other matter which may properly come before the Special Meeting, including any adjournment or postponement thereof. A shareholder may revoke any proxy given pursuant to this solicitation by: (i) delivering to the Secretary of Commercial, prior to or at the Special Meeting, a written notice revoking the proxy; (ii) delivering to the Secretary of Commercial, at or prior to the Special Meeting, a duly executed proxy relating to the same shares and bearing a later date; or (iii) voting in person at the Special Meeting.

Attendance at the Special Meeting will not, in and of itself, constitute a revocation of a proxy. All written notices of revocation and other communications with respect to the revocation of a proxy should be addressed to:

Commercial Bankshares, Inc.

1550 S.W. 57th Avenue

Miami, Florida 33144

Attention: Bruce P. Steinberger, President and Corporate Secretary

Facsimile: (305) 266-3302

The Board of Directors of Commercial is not aware of any business to be acted upon at the Special Meeting other than consideration of the Agreement described herein. If, however, other matters are properly brought before the Special Meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof, the persons appointed as proxies will have the discretion to vote or act on such matters according to their best judgment. Proxies voted in favor of the approval of the Agreement, or proxies as to which no voting instructions are given, will be voted to adjourn the Special Meeting, if necessary, in order to solicit additional proxies in favor of the approval of the Agreement. Proxies voted against the approval of the Agreement and abstentions will not be voted for an adjournment. See Adjournment of the Special Meeting.

### **Effect of Merger on Outstanding BancGroup Common Stock**

Assuming that 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock are outstanding on the Effective Date, BancGroup will issue approximately 6,288,355 shares in connection with the Merger. The issuance of 6,288,355 shares of BancGroup common stock would represent approximately 3.95% of the total number of shares of BancGroup common stock outstanding following the Merger, not counting any additional shares BancGroup may issue for reasons unconnected to the Merger.

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### **PROPOSAL 1: THE MERGER**

*The following sets forth a summary of the material provisions of the Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby. The description does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix A. All Commercial shareholders are urged to read the Agreement and the Appendices in their entirety.*

#### **General**

The Agreement provides that, subject to approval by the shareholders of Commercial, receipt of necessary regulatory approvals and satisfaction of certain other conditions described below at Conditions to Consummation of the Merger, Commercial will merge with and into BancGroup. Upon completion of the Merger, the corporate existence of Commercial will cease, and BancGroup will succeed to the business formerly conducted by Commercial.

#### **Background of the Merger**

Members of the executive management of Commercial have periodically reviewed and assessed the strategic options of Commercial and have discussed such options with Commercial's Board of Directors. The Board and such executive management routinely have discussed the increasing level of competition, continuing consolidation, regulatory burden and related costs and other developments in the financial services industry, particularly in the Southeast.

Based upon the Board of Directors' collective experience and knowledge of Commercial's industry and sector, the Board remained confident in the viability of Commercial's strategic plan but also discussed the possibility that market conditions might present an opportunity to enhance shareholder value through a capital transaction.

At the August 18, 2006 Board of Directors meeting, members of the executive committee advised the Board of their recent discussions regarding various potential financial advisors and their possible engagement to assist Commercial in exploring its strategic alternatives, and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each potential advisor with the Board. The Board then unanimously approved instructing executive management to invite Hovde Financial, Inc. ( "Hovde" ) to make a presentation to the Board regarding Commercial's strategic options. Thereupon, executive management met with and provided Hovde with data prepared by management relating to Commercial's financial condition and prospects.

On September 19, 2006, the Board of Directors met with and reviewed and assessed its strategic options with Hovde, including continuing to implement Commercial's strategic plan, a merger of Commercial, or other similar transaction. These discussions included analyses of the financial institution merger market on a national and regional basis, the potential value of the Commercial franchise based on current merger market fundamentals and the potential market value of Commercial common stock assuming the execution of its current business plan. Hovde also discussed with the Board of Directors the different types of methodologies that could be used to value Commercial. Based upon the presentation by Hovde, and Hovde's reputation and expertise in evaluating the financial condition and prospects of financial institutions, such as Commercial, the Board unanimously approved the engagement of Hovde as the financial advisor to Commercial whereupon the parties subsequently entered into a letter agreement providing for such advisory services.

At the September 19, 2006 meeting of the Board of Directors, in consultation with Hovde, the Board determined that it would be in the best interest of shareholders for Commercial to solicit on a selective basis nonpublic indications of interest for a possible transaction in respect of the acquisition of the capital stock of Commercial. The Board then set a time frame of mid-December 2006 for all potentially interested parties to submit final indications of interest. The Board determined that this process would be the most efficient method for allowing the Board to assess whether a transaction meets its objective of enhancing shareholder value could be realized.

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In early November, 2006 in accordance with the Board's instructions, Hovde began contacting potential bidders on a confidential basis, including, but not limited to, regional, national, and international bank holding companies. These parties were selected taking into account, among other things, a cross section of potential bidders that were either industry peers of Commercial or perceived as potentially interested in investing in or acquiring assets in the commercial banking sector. Whether particular firms or companies had the apparent management expertise, regulatory standing and financial ability to effectuate an acquisition of an organization such as Commercial was also considered.

On or about November 16, 2006, the Chairman of the Board received an unsolicited telephone call from a representative of a foreign financial institution, referred to as Bidder A, indicating that Bidder A had an interest in acquiring Commercial. The Chairman advised Bidder A's representative that Commercial had commenced a process of exploring strategic alternatives in the interest of maximizing shareholder value, and that Bidder A was invited to participate in this process by contacting Commercial's financial advisor, Hovde, directly. Bidder A thereafter contacted Hovde and Bidder A became a participant in the process.

During the months of November through December, Hovde was in contact with a total of 23 institutions, and obtained confidentiality agreements from twelve of these parties. These twelve parties received confidential information about the Company prepared by management relating to the Company's financial condition and prospects, to assist them in preparing their indication of value, which was requested by December 11, 2006. Hovde then received preliminary indications of interest from three of these parties.

At a December 21, 2006 meeting of the Board of Directors, Hovde presented to the Board written indications of value from three bidders, including BancGroup and Bidder A. BancGroup's bid was for the acquisition of Commercial for aggregate consideration consisting of 50% cash and 50% stock, and Bidder A's bid was for aggregate consideration consisting of all cash. BancGroup's bid was slightly higher than Bidder A's bid. The third bid was for aggregate consideration consisting of all stock and was the lowest of the three bids.

BancGroup communicated to Hovde that its bid was conditioned on Commercial pursuing an agreement with the bidder on an exclusive basis. At the December 21 meeting, the Board reviewed, in consultation with Hovde, the preliminary indications of interest and discussed the terms and merits of each bid. Following this discussion, the Board determined that it would be in the best interest of Commercial and its shareholders to continue the process and further explore with BancGroup the feasibility of a transaction that would maximize shareholder value. The Board determined to invite BancGroup to conduct further due diligence, with a view to reaching a definitive agreement. Hovde made such invitation to executive management of BancGroup, and the parties agreed, in order to accommodate various scheduling conflicts as a result of the holidays, to select the week of January 8 to conduct final due diligence.

On December 22, 2006, Robert Lowder, the Chairman of BancGroup, called Joseph Armaly, the Chairman of Commercial, to confirm BancGroup's serious interest in reaching an agreement, on the terms of the previously submitted bid, for the acquisition of Commercial as soon as possible, and then closing on such acquisition in a four to six month timeframe.

In the ensuing days, Hovde received a telephone call from Bidder A's financial advisor expressing Bidder A's willingness to increase its non-binding offer to an amount per share, in an all cash transaction, that would be slightly higher, based on BancGroup's common stock trading price on that date, than BancGroup's existing written non-binding offer. Hovde thereupon inquired of Bidder A's financial advisor what Bidder A's expected timeframe to close any such transaction would be and what financial and other assurances Bidder could give in this regard. Bidder A's financial representative was unable to provide any concrete timeframe or assurances. Hovde also communicated to BancGroup the existence and circumstances of the increased offer.

On the morning of December 29, 2006, Bidder A submitted to Hovde a revised written confidential non-binding offer to acquire all of the capital stock of Commercial in an all cash transaction for an amount per

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share slightly higher, based on BancGroup's common stock trading price on that date, than that proposed by BancGroup, subject to further due diligence and other contingencies. This written non-binding offer did not contain an expected timeframe to reach an agreement upon, or to close, any such transaction, nor provide for any financial or other assurances in regard to a closing. Bidder A's bid expressly stated closing of any such transaction was subject to approval of a foreign financial institution regulatory authority, as well as U.S. regulatory authorities.

The Board of Directors then met at 10:45 a.m. on December 29, 2006 to consider Bidder A's revised bid. In attendance at this meeting were Hovde and Akerman Senterfitt & Eidson, P.A. (Akerman Senterfitt), counsel to Commercial. The Board discussed the status of the BancGroup merger process, Bidder A's revised bid in relation to the value of BancGroup's bid as of such date, the structure of both the BancGroup and the Bidder A proposed transactions, the possibility of BancGroup pricing being revised upward, the fact that BancGroup's common stock was trading at the low end of its historical trading range, the ability of Commercial shareholders to participate in the future of the combined company in a transaction with BancGroup with the mix of stock and cash, and the ability to pay dividends during the merger process under the BancGroup proposal but not under Bidder A's proposal.

At the December 29 meeting, the Board also discussed the speed and the relative ability of each offering institution to complete and integrate U.S. domestic merger transactions. It was noted that Bidder A, a foreign bank holding company, had a limited presence in the United States, and that Bidder A's intent, as noted in its bid, was to enter the U.S. domestic market via the proposed acquisition. In contrast, it was noted that BancGroup is a regional U.S. bank holding company with a 25 year history and has completed numerous acquisitions, including acquisitions of public companies. Hovde reported that Bidder A's representatives were unable to commit, either contractually or monetarily, to a timeframe to closing any proposed transaction.

Hovde gave an analysis of BancGroup's and Bidder A's bids. Hovde further reported that Hovde had pressed BancGroup to increase its bid in view of a higher competing bid, but that BancGroup had declined after having previously raised its bid to the point at which it stood. The Board discussed its fiduciary obligations in consultation with its counsel, Akerman Senterfitt. The Board then unanimously authorized executive management to pursue, with the assistance of Commercial's legal and financial advisors, a definitive merger agreement with BancGroup on the basis of the proposal presented to the Board by BancGroup, and to continue to permit BancGroup to conduct due diligence on Commercial.

On January 22, 2007, the Board of Directors of Commercial held a special meeting at which representatives of Hovde and Akerman Senterfitt presented the terms of the definitive merger agreement and ancillary agreements and the findings of Hovde's due diligence investigation of BancGroup. A representative of Hovde made a presentation regarding the fairness of the merger consideration in the proposed BancGroup transaction to Commercial's shareholders from a financial point of view. Hovde delivered to the Board its written opinion, dated January 22, 2007, that the merger consideration in the proposed BancGroup transaction is fair, from a financial point of view, to the shareholders of Commercial. The Board reviewed with Akerman Senterfitt the fiduciary obligations applicable to the proposed transaction, the approvals and contingencies necessary to consummate the transaction and the regulatory issues and process involved. After those presentations and further discussions regarding the proposed mix of cash and common stock consideration and the fluctuation of the overall merger consideration under various scenarios, the Board determined that the merger agreement and transactions contemplated thereby were in the best interest of Commercial shareholders, unanimously approved the proposed merger and related agreements and authorized Mr. Armaly and executive management to execute the merger agreement and to take all steps necessary to effect the proposed transaction. Commercial and BancGroup subsequently executed the merger agreement dated as of January 23, 2007 (the Merger Agreement).

On January 23, 2007, Commercial and BancGroup each issued press releases announcing the transaction.



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### **Commercial s Reasons for the Merger**

Commercial s Board of Directors has unanimously approved the Merger Agreement and recommends that Commercial shareholders vote FOR the approval of the Merger Agreement.

The Commercial board has determined that the merger is fair to, and in the best interests of, Commercial and its shareholders. In approving the Merger Agreement, the Board of Directors of Commercial consulted with its financial advisors with respect to the financial aspects and fairness of the transaction to Commercial s shareholders from a financial point of view and with its legal counsel as to its legal duties and the terms of the Merger Agreement and related agreements. In reaching its determination to approve and recommend the merger, the Board of Directors of Commercial, with the advice from certain members of executive management and financial and legal advisors, considered a number of factors, including the following material factors:

The Board of Directors understanding of strategic options available to Commercial and the assessment of those options by the board and certain members of executive management as to the prospects and estimated results of the execution of its business plan as an independent entity under various scenarios, and the determination that none of those strategic options or the execution of its business plan under the best case scenarios were likely to create greater value on a present value basis for shareholders than the merger consideration being paid by BancGroup.

The ability of Commercial shareholders to continue to participate in the future of the combined entity by receiving BancGroup common stock and ability of shareholders to elect to receive approximately 50% of the merger consideration in cash to moderate the effects of market fluctuations in BancGroup common stock and that shareholders would have potential value appreciation by owning the common stock of a highly-regarded and profitable financial institution operating in the Southeast region.

Information concerning the business, earnings, operations, financial condition, strategic initiatives and general prospects of Colonial as compared to the other institutions and the expected performance of BancGroup and Commercial on a combined basis. In particular, the Board of Directors considered the recent merger transactions consummated by BancGroup and the impact those transactions had on BancGroup s performance, the market value and trading history of the common stock of BancGroup in comparison to its peer institutions, and in comparison to Commercial s common stock, the combined franchise and geographic coverage that would result from a merger with BancGroup and the relative prospects of continued growth and performance of BancGroup based upon the expected interest rate environment in the near term and the structure of BancGroup s balance sheet and operating strategy.

The opinion rendered by Hovde, as financial advisor to Commercial, that, subject to the assumptions and limitations set forth therein, the merger consideration was, as of the date of the opinion, fair, from a financial point of view, to Commercial s shareholders.

The potential efficiencies and synergies that could result from a combination with BancGroup and the wider array of products and services that would be available to the current customers and communities served by Commercial and the prospect that the combined entity would be better able to capitalize on opportunities to provide increased financial services to Commercial customers.

The results of the due diligence review conducted on BancGroup, including the likelihood of the transaction receiving the requisite regulatory approvals in a timely manner.

The effect of the merger on the depositors, customers and the communities served by Commercial. The acquisition by BancGroup was deemed to be an opportunity to provide depositors, customers and the communities served by Commercial with increased financial services and access to financial services throughout a wider market area.

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That Joseph W. Armaly would remain involved with the combined entity as a consultant to Colonial Bank, N.A. ( Colonial Bank ) which would help the continued entity deal with transition issues.

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The current and prospective economic, competitive and regulatory environment and associated compliance costs facing Commercial and independent community banking institutions generally.

A review, with the assistance of its financial and legal advisors, of the terms of the Merger Agreement, the structure of the merger and the mix of cash and common stock consideration, including the fact that the merger is intended to qualify as a transaction of a type that is generally tax-free for U.S. federal income tax purposes as to the stock component of the merger consideration.

The likelihood of regulatory and shareholder approvals and estimated transactional and severance costs associated with the merger and payments that could be triggered upon termination of or failure to consummate the merger.

The foregoing information and factors considered by Commercial's Board of Directors are not exhaustive, but include all material factors that Commercial's Board of Directors considered and discussed in approving and recommending the merger. In view of the wide variety of factors considered and discussed by Commercial's Board of Directors in connection with its evaluation of the merger and the complexity of these factors, the Board of Directors did not consider it practical to, nor did it attempt to, quantify, rank or otherwise assign any specific or relative weights to the specific factors that it considered in reaching its decision; rather it considered all of the factors as a whole. The Board of Directors discussed the foregoing factors, including asking questions of certain members of Commercial's executive management, and legal and financial advisers, and reached a general consensus that the merger was in the best interests of Commercial and its shareholders. In considering the foregoing factors, individual directors may have assigned different weights to different factors. Commercial's Board of Directors relied on the experience and expertise of Commercial's financial adviser for quantitative analysis of the financial terms of the merger. See Proposal 1: The Merger Fairness Opinion of Hovde Financial, Inc. below. It should be noted that this explanation of the reasoning of Commercial's Board of Directors and all other information presented in this section is forward-looking in nature and, therefore, should be read in light of the factors discussed under A Warning About Forward-Looking Statements on page 14.

**Fairness Opinion of Hovde Financial, Inc.**

On September 19, 2006, the Board of Directors of Commercial authorized the formalization of its retention of Hovde to provide its financial services to us including a potential sale of Commercial. Hovde has delivered to the Board of Directors of Commercial its opinion that, based upon and subject to the various considerations set forth in its written opinion dated January 22, 2007, the merger consideration to be paid to the shareholders of Commercial is fair from a financial point of view as of such date. In requesting Hovde's advice and opinion, no limitations were imposed by Commercial upon Hovde with respect to the investigations made or procedures followed by it in rendering its opinion. *The full text of the opinion of Hovde, dated January 22, 2007, which describes the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken, is attached hereto as Appendix B. Commercial's shareholders should read this opinion in its entirety.*

Hovde is a nationally recognized investment banking firm and, as part of its investment banking business, is continually engaged in the valuation of financial institutions in connection with mergers and acquisitions, private placements and valuations for other purposes. As a specialist in securities of financial institutions, Hovde has experience in, and knowledge of, banks, thrifts and bank and thrift holding companies. The Board of Directors of Commercial selected Hovde to act as its financial advisor based upon the firm's reputation and expertise in respect of financial institutions such as Commercial, including in transactions such as the merger.

Hovde received a fee from Commercial for performing a financial analysis of the merger and rendering a written opinion to the Board of Directors of Commercial as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger to the shareholders of Commercial. Commercial has agreed to pay Hovde fees upon the consummation of the merger equal to one and one-quarter percent of the final value of the transaction for its services as financial advisor in connection with the merger. Based upon a transaction value of \$319.9 million, if the merger is

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consummated Commercial will pay Hovde approximately \$4,000,000 for its services. In addition to its fees and regardless of whether the merger is consummated, Commercial has agreed to reimburse Hovde for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. Commercial has also agreed to indemnify Hovde against any claims, losses and expenses arising out of the merger or Hovde's engagement that did not arise from Hovde's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

*Hovde's opinion is directed only to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration, and, as such, does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder of Commercial as to how the shareholder should vote at the Special Meeting. The summary of the opinion of Hovde set forth in this proxy statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the opinion.*

The following is a summary of the analyses performed by Hovde in connection with its fairness opinion. Certain of these analyses were discussed in a presentation to the Board of Directors of Commercial by Hovde. The summary set forth below does not purport to be a complete description of either the analyses performed by Hovde in rendering its opinion or the presentation delivered by Hovde to the Board of Directors of Commercial, but it does summarize all of the material analyses performed and presented by Hovde.

The preparation of a fairness opinion involves various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analyses and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. In arriving at its opinion, Hovde did not attribute any particular weight to any analysis or factor considered by it, but rather made qualitative judgments as to the significance and relevance of each analysis and factor. Accordingly, Hovde believes that its analyses and the following summary must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses, without considering all factors and analyses, could create an incomplete view of the process underlying the analyses set forth in its report to the Board of Directors of Commercial and its fairness opinion.

In performing its analyses, Hovde made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business and economic conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of Commercial and BancGroup. The analyses performed by Hovde are not necessarily indicative of actual value or actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by such analyses. Such analyses were prepared solely as part of Hovde's analysis of the fairness of the merger consideration, from a financial point of view, to the shareholders of Commercial. The analyses do not purport to be an appraisal or to reflect the prices at which a company might actually be sold or the prices at which any securities may trade at the present time or at any time in the future. Hovde's opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to any other business combination in which Commercial might engage. In addition, as described above, Hovde's opinion to the Board of Directors of Commercial was one of many factors taken into consideration by the Board of Directors of Commercial in making its determination to approve the Merger Agreement.

The opinion expressed by Hovde was based on market, economic and other relevant considerations as they existed and could be evaluated as of the date of the opinion. Events occurring after the date of issuance of the opinion, including changes affecting the securities markets, the results of operations or material changes in the financial condition of either Commercial or BancGroup could materially affect the assumptions used in preparing this opinion.

During the course of its engagement, and as a basis for arriving at its opinion, Hovde reviewed and analyzed material bearing upon the financial and operating conditions of Commercial and BancGroup and material prepared in connection with the merger, including, among other things, the following:

the Merger Agreement and all attachments thereto;

certain historical publicly available information concerning Commercial and BancGroup;

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certain internal financial statements and other financial and operating data concerning Commercial;

certain other information provided to Hovde by members of the executive management of Commercial and BancGroup for the purpose of reviewing the future prospects of Commercial and BancGroup, including financial forecasts related to its business, earnings, assets and liabilities;

the historical market prices and trading volumes of BancGroup common stock;

the nature and terms of recent merger and acquisition transactions to the extent publicly available, involving banks, thrifts and bank and thrift holding companies that Hovde considered relevant; and

the pro forma ownership of BancGroup common stock by the holders of Commercial common stock relative to the pro forma contribution of the Commercial's assets, liabilities, equity and earnings.

In addition, Hovde:

analyzed the pro forma impact of the merger on the combined company's earnings, consolidated equity capitalization and financial ratios;

took into account its assessment of general economic, market and financial conditions and its experience in other transactions, as well as its knowledge of the commercial banking industry and its general experience in securities valuations; and

performed such other analyses and considered other factors as it deemed appropriate.

In rendering its opinion, Hovde assumed, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information provided to it and relied upon the accuracy of the representations of the parties contained in the Merger Agreement. Hovde also assumed the financial forecasts furnished to or discussed with Hovde by Commercial and BancGroup were reasonably prepared and reflected the best currently available estimates and judgments of executive management of Commercial and BancGroup as to the future financial performance of Commercial, BancGroup or the combined company, as the case may be. Hovde has not made any independent evaluation or appraisal of any properties, assets or liabilities of Commercial.

**Contribution Analysis.** Hovde prepared a contribution analysis showing percentages of assets, net loans, deposits and equity at December 31, 2006 for Commercial and BancGroup, and the trailing twelve months and estimated calendar-year 2007 net income that would be contributed to the combined company on a pro-forma basis. These contribution percentages were compared to the approximately 7.18% (hypothetically assuming all Commercial common stock was to be converted entirely into BancGroup Common Stock) of the pro forma common shares outstanding that holders of Commercial common stock would own.

	Commercial (%)	BancGroup (%)
Assets	4.35	95.65
Net Loans	3.48	96.52
Deposits	4.97	95.03
Equity	4.20	95.80
LTM Net Income	4.55	95.45
2007 Estimated Net Income	4.27	95.73



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**Trading Price Analysis.** Hovde reviewed the average trading prices for BancGroup at different intervals during the period commencing September 19, 2006, using the 5-day, 10-day, 20-day, 30-day, 45-day, 60-day and 90-day average closing price of BancGroup common stock during such period.

	<b>BancGroup average closing price</b>
Last trading day	\$ 25.94
Last 5 Trading Days	\$ 26.00
Last 10 Trading Days	\$ 26.19
Last 20 Trading Days	\$ 25.74
Last 30 Trading Days	\$ 25.59
Last 45 Trading Days	\$ 24.83
Last 60 Trading Days	\$ 24.06
Last 90 Trading Days	\$ 23.89

**Stock Trading History Analysis.** Hovde reviewed the relationship between the movements in the prices of Commercial s common stock and BancGroup s common stock to movements in certain stock indices, including the SNL Bank Index, the Standard & Poor s 500 Index and the Russell 2000 Index. Hovde noted that during the one year period ended January 17, 2007, both Commercial s common stock and BancGroup s common stock underperformed each of the indices.

	<b>Beginning Index Value on January 17, 2006</b>	<b>Ending Index Value on January 17, 2007</b>
Commercial	100.00%	102.30%
BancGroup	100.00%	103.78%
SNL Bank Index	100.00%	111.83%
S&P 500 Index	100.00%	111.51%
Russell 2000 Index	100.00%	112.10%

Hovde also noted that during the three year period ended January 17, 2007, both Commercial s common stock and BancGroup s common stock outperformed the SNL Bank Index, the Standard & Poor s 500 Index and the Russell 2000 Index.

	<b>Beginning Index Value on January 17, 2004</b>	<b>Ending Index Value on January 17, 2007</b>
Commercial	100.00%	135.57%
BancGroup	100.00%	146.51%
SNL Bank Index	100.00%	118.12%
S&P 500 Index	100.00%	125.51%
Russell 2000 Index	100.00%	133.60%

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**Premium to Market Analysis.** Hovde reviewed the merger consideration premium to Commercial common stock price at different intervals during the period commencing January 17, 2007, using the 5-day, 10-day, 20-day, 30-day, 45-day, 60-day and 90-day average closing price of BancGroup common stock during such period. Using such average closing prices, Hovde observed that the premium to Commercial common stock based on its own January 17, 2007 closing price of \$37.85 was as follows:

	<b>BancGroup average closing price</b>	<b>Implied deal value to Commercial Bankshares</b>	<b>Implied premium to Commercial Bankshares</b>
Last trading day	\$ 24.98	\$ 49.75	31.4%
Last 5 Trading Days	\$ 25.74	\$ 50.52	33.5%
Last 10 Trading Days	\$ 25.87	\$ 50.65	33.8%
Last 20 Trading Days	\$ 25.81	\$ 50.58	33.6%
Last 30 Trading Days	\$ 25.11	\$ 49.88	31.8%
Last 45 Trading Days	\$ 24.82	\$ 49.59	31.0%
Last 60 Trading Days	\$ 24.58	\$ 49.34	30.4%
Last 90 Trading Days	\$ 24.60	\$ 49.36	30.4%

**Analysis of Selected Transactions.** As part of its analysis, Hovde reviewed three groups of comparable transactions. The first peer group included transactions, which have occurred since January 1, 2000, that involved target banks headquartered in Florida, in which the total assets of the seller were between \$500 million and \$5.0 billion (the Florida Merger Group). This Florida Merger Group consisted of the following 14 transactions:

**Buyer**

Marshall & Ilsley Corp.  
Park National Corp.  
The Colonial BancGroup Inc.  
Popular Inc.  
First National Bankshares of FL  
South Financial Group Inc.  
South Financial Group Inc.  
The Colonial BancGroup Inc.  
BB&T Corp.  
Alabama National BanCorp.  
F.N.B. Corp.  
Royal Bank of Canada  
South Financial Group Inc.  
Wachovia Corp.

**Seller**

United Heritage Bankshares  
Vision Bancshares Inc.  
Union Bank of Florida  
Kislak Financial Corp.  
Southern Community Bancorp  
Florida Banks Inc.  
CNB Florida Bancshares Inc.  
P.C.B. Bancorp Inc.  
Republic Bancshares Inc.  
Indian River Banking Co.  
Charter Banking Corp.  
Admiralty Bancorp Inc.  
Gulf West Banks Inc.  
Republic Security Financial



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Hovde then reviewed comparable transactions involving banks headquartered in the metropolitan areas of the Southeastern United States (AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, TN, SC and VA) announced since January 1, 2004, in which the total assets of the seller were between \$500 million and \$2.5 billion (the Southeast Merger Group). This Southeast Merger Group consisted of the following 17 transactions:

**Buyer**

UCBH Holdings Inc.  
 Park National Corp.  
 Royal Bank of Canada  
 Alabama National Bancorp.  
 Banc Corp.  
 BB&T Corp.  
 BB&T Corp.  
 Pinnacle Financial Partners  
 Synovus Financial Corp.  
 Liberty Bancshares Inc.  
 Mercantile Bankshares Corp.  
 Home Bankshares Inc.  
 The Colonial BancGroup Inc.  
 Popular Inc.  
 Peoples Holding Co.  
 South Financial Group Inc.  
 South Financial Group Inc.

**Seller**

Summit Bank Corp.  
 Vision Bancshares Inc.  
 FLAG Financial Corp.  
 PB Financial Services Corp.  
 Community Bancshares Inc.  
 First Citizens Bancorp  
 Main Street Banks Inc.  
 Cavalry Bancorp Inc.  
 Riverside Bancshares Inc.  
 Russellville Bancshares Inc.  
 Community Bank of N. Virginia  
 TCBancorp Inc.  
 Union Bank of Florida  
 Kislak Financial Corp.  
 Heritage Financial Holding Co.  
 Florida Banks Inc.  
 CNB Florida Bancshares Inc.

Hovde then reviewed comparable transactions involving banks headquartered in the metropolitan areas nationwide announced since January 1, 2005, in which the total assets of the seller were between \$750 million and \$2.5 billion (the Nationwide Merger Group). This Nationwide Merger Group consisted of the following 16 transactions:

**Buyer**

Rabobank Nederland  
 BancorpSouth Inc.  
 BMO Financial Group  
 Sterling Financial Corp.  
 Zions Bancorp  
 Royal Bank of Canada  
 NewAlliance Bancshares Inc.  
 Umpqua Holdings Corp.  
 Grupo Financiero Banorte  
 BB&T Corp.  
 First Midwest Bancorp Inc.  
 Prosperity Bancshares Inc.  
 Compass Bancshares Inc.  
 East West Bancorp Inc.  
 Associated Banc-Corp.  
 Mercantile Bankshares Corp.

**Seller**

Mid-State Bancshares  
 City Bancorp  
 First National Bank & Trust Co.  
 Northern Empire Bancshares  
 Stockmen's Bancorp Inc.  
 FLAG Financial Corp.  
 Westbank Corp.  
 Western Sierra Bancorp  
 INB Financial Corporation  
 Main Street Banks Inc.  
 Bank Calumet Inc.  
 SNB Bancshares Inc.  
 TexasBanc Holding Company  
 United National Bank  
 State Financial Services Corp.  
 Community Bank of N. Virginia

Hovde calculated the medians of the following relevant transaction ratios in the Florida Merger Group, the Southeast Merger Group and the Nationwide Merger Group: the multiple of the offer value to the acquired company's book value; the multiple of the offer value to the acquired company's tangible book value; the multiple of the offer value to the acquired company's earnings for the twelve months preceding the announcement date of the transaction; and the tangible book value premium to core deposits. Hovde compared

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these multiples with the corresponding multiples for the merger, valuing the per share consideration including the special dividend that would be received pursuant to the Merger Agreement at \$49.75 per diluted share of Commercial. In calculating the multiples for the merger, Hovde used Commercial's earnings for the twelve months ended December 31, 2006 and Commercial's book value, tangible book value and core deposits as of June 30, 2006. The results of this analysis are as follows:

	Offer Value to:			Ratio of Tangible Book Value Premium to Core Deposits
	Book Value (x)	Tangible Book Value (x)	12 months Preceding Earnings (x)	(%)
BancGroup	3.55	3.56	25.5	42.4
Florida Merger Group median	3.01	3.14	26.9	25.1
Southeast Merger Group median	2.98	3.22	22.8	26.4
Nationwide Merger Group median	2.55	2.98	20.1	29.9

**Discounted Cash Flow Analysis.** Hovde estimated the present value of all shares of the Commercial's common stock by utilizing Commercial's estimated future earnings stream. Hovde's assumptions of net income and dividends for the period 2007-2011 were based on Commercial's internal projections and historical averages. In all cases, the present value of these cash flows was calculated based on a range of discount rates of 12.0%, 13.0% and 14.0%. These rates and values were chosen to reflect different assumptions regarding the required rates of return of holders or prospective buyers of Commercial's common stock.

Hovde derived the take-out value of Commercial's common stock using both the terminal value earnings multiple and book value approaches. In arriving at the terminal value of Commercial's earnings stream in 2011, Hovde assumed a terminal earnings value multiple at a range of 21.0x, 22.0x and 23.0x. Similarly, in arriving at the terminal value of Commercial's book value in 2011, Hovde assumed a terminal book value multiple at a range of 275.0%, 300.0% and 325.0%. The terminal values were then discounted, along with annual cash flows, to arrive at the present value for Commercial's common stock. These analyses and its underlying assumptions yielded a per share range of value for Commercial's common stock of approximately \$34.95 to \$41.06 with a midpoint of \$37.90 based on the earnings approach and \$34.32 to \$43.12 with a midpoint of \$38.55 based on the book value approach.

**Comparable Company Analysis.** Using publicly available information, Hovde compared the stock market valuation and operating characteristics of BancGroup on standalone basis with other Southeastern banks with assets between \$5.0 billion and \$50.0 billion (the Comparable Group). The Comparable Group consisted of the following 11 publicly traded institutions:

Company Name	Ticker
Alabama National BanCorp.	ALAB
BancorpSouth, Inc.	BXS
Compass Bancshares, Inc.	CBSS
First Citizens Bancshares, Inc.	FCNCA
First Horizon National Corp.	FHN
Hancock Holding Company	HBHC
South Financial Group, Inc.	TSFG
Synovus Financial Corp.	SNV
Trustmark Corp.	TRMK
United Bankshares, Inc.	UBSI
United Community Banks, Inc.	UCBI

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Indications of such financial performance and stock market valuation included the calculation of price-to-book value, price-to-tangible book value, price-to-last twelve months trailing GAAP earnings and price-to-2007 estimated GAAP earnings.

	Price to:			2007 Estimated Earnings (%)
	Book Value (x)	Tangible Book Value (x)	LTM Earnings (x)	
BancGroup	1.85	2.75	14.5	12.6
Comparable Group median	2.04	3.06	16.7	14.8

**Based upon the foregoing analyses and other investigations and assumptions set forth in its opinion, without giving specific weightings to any one factor or comparison, Hovde determined that the merger consideration was fair from a financial point of view to the shareholders of Commercial.**

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors of Commercial**

The Board of Directors of Commercial has determined that the Agreement is in the best interest of Commercial shareholders. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE SHAREHOLDERS OF COMMERCIAL VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE AGREEMENT.

**BancGroup's Reasons for the Merger**

The Board of Directors of BancGroup has unanimously approved the merger and the Agreement. The merger will allow BancGroup to expand its banking operations in Commercial's market area. As of December 31, 2006, BancGroup operated a commercial bank with 166 branches in Florida. The Board of Directors of BancGroup believes that the combination with Commercial is consistent with its current expansion strategy.

In approving the merger and the Agreement, the Board of Directors of BancGroup took into account: (i) the financial performance and condition of Commercial and Commercial Bank of Florida ( Commercial Bank ), including its capital and asset quality; (ii) similarities in the philosophies of BancGroup and Commercial, including the commitment of Commercial to delivering high quality personalized financial services to its customers; and (iii) the extensive knowledge of, and experience in, the Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, Florida, market area that has been demonstrated by the management of Commercial.

**Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger**

Certain members of the management and Boards of Directors of Commercial and Commercial Bank may be deemed to have certain interests in the merger in addition to their interest as shareholders of Commercial generally. The Board of Directors of Commercial was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in unanimously approving the Agreement.

*Exercise and Cash-out of Options.* As of the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, Commercial had outstanding options (the Commercial Options ) which entitle the holders thereof to acquire up to 424,759 shares of Commercial common stock. Each holder of a Commercial Option has either elected to exercise his or her options for Commercial common stock or elected to receive a cash payment for his or her Commercial Options, in a cashless exercise. The amount of such cash payment is equal to the aggregate of the number of shares of Commercial common stock subject to each Commercial Option multiplied by the difference of \$49.00 and the per share exercise price of such Commercial Option, less any applicable withholding taxes. See Proposal 1: The Merger Treatment of Commercial Options.

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*Employees.* Pursuant to existing employment agreements with Commercial and/or Commercial Bank of Florida, Joseph W. Armaly, Chairman and CEO, Bruce P. Steinberger, President and Secretary and Barbara E. Reed, Executive Vice President and CFO are expected to be paid \$3,030,014, \$1,177,291 and \$450,000, respectively, at the completion of the merger as a result of the change in control of Commercial.

Joseph W. Armaly has entered into a consulting agreement with Colonial Bank that will become effective when and if the merger is completed. The agreement provides for a term of two years, and an annual base consideration of approximately \$200,000. The agreement also provides that Mr. Armaly will not be considered an employee of Colonial Bank, but rather an independent contractor and outside consultant. The agreement also provides that Mr. Armaly may purchase the automobile currently provided to him by Commercial for \$1.00, that reasonable out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed, and that Colonial will provide Mr. Armaly with office space and secretarial assistance. The consulting agreement also contains covenants prohibiting Mr. Armaly from soliciting Colonial Bank's customers and employees or competing against Colonial Bank during the term of the consulting agreement.

Steven Capellan has entered into an employment agreement with Colonial Bank that will become effective at the completion of the merger. This employment agreement provides for 18 months of employment at 115% of his current level of salary and at least 100% of his current bonus. The employment agreement also provides for a stock option grant of 7,500 shares of BancGroup's common stock and a signing bonus of 15% of Mr. Capellan's base salary. The employment agreement also contains covenants prohibiting Mr. Capellan from soliciting Colonial Bank's customers and employees or competing against Colonial Bank during the term of the employment agreement.

On the Effective Date, all employees of Commercial will, at BancGroup's option, either become employees of BancGroup or its subsidiaries or be entitled to severance benefits in accordance with Colonial Bank's severance policy. All employees of Commercial who become employees of BancGroup or its subsidiaries on the Effective Date will be entitled, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to participate in all benefit plans of BancGroup to the same extent as BancGroup's employees. Because BancGroup has frozen its defined benefit pension plan and new employees are not able to participate in it, Commercial employees will not be admitted into that plan.

*Indemnification.* Under the Agreement, BancGroup has agreed for a period of six years to indemnify the directors and executive officers of Commercial and its subsidiaries against certain claims and liabilities arising out of or pertaining to matters existing or occurring at or prior to the Effective Date, to the extent that Commercial would have been authorized under Florida law, or under its Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, to indemnify such persons. BancGroup has also agreed to extend such indemnification to directors of Commercial Bank with respect to matters existing or occurring after the Effective Date during any extended term of service as a director of Commercial Bank. The foregoing indemnification is subject to the limitations imposed by 12 U.S.C. §1828(K) and 12 CFR Part 359 of the FDIC regulations.

*Affiliate Agreements.* Commercial's directors have entered into affiliate agreements with BancGroup regarding various issues associated with the merger. These agreements provide that the director will, among other things:

agree to vote his shares for the merger;

not distribute BancGroup common stock issued in connection with the merger except in accordance with certain rules of the SEC;  
and

support the business of Colonial Bank after the merger.

Additionally, Commercial's directors who are not also employees of Commercial agreed generally not to compete with Colonial Bank for a period of two years after the Effective Date.

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### **Effective Date, Conversion of Commercial Common Stock**

The Agreement provides for the merger of Commercial with and into BancGroup, with BancGroup to be the surviving corporation. Assuming all other conditions stated in the merger agreement have been or will be satisfied or waived as of the closing, the merger shall become effective as of the date and time the certificate of merger is accepted for filing by the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. On the Effective Date, each share of Commercial common stock outstanding and held by the Commercial shareholders will be converted by operation of law and without any action by any holder thereof into either (i) 2.0214 shares of BancGroup common stock or (ii) \$49.00 cash (the Merger Consideration). Accordingly, based upon the 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock outstanding as of the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, and assuming the exercise of no Commercial Options prior to the closing of the Merger, the number of shares of BancGroup common stock that may be issued in the Merger is expected to be approximately 6,288,355 shares, and the amount of cash that BancGroup is expected to pay in the Merger for the outstanding shares of Commercial's common stock is expected to be approximately \$152,433,659.

No fractional shares of BancGroup common stock will be issued in connection with the Merger. Each shareholder of Commercial otherwise entitled to receive a fractional share of BancGroup common stock will receive instead a cash payment (without interest) equal to such fractional interest multiplied by \$49.00.

The Agreement provides that if, prior to the Effective Date, BancGroup common stock is changed into a different number of shares or a different class of shares by reason of any recapitalization or reclassification, stock dividend, combination, stock split, or reverse stock split of the BancGroup common stock, an appropriate and proportionate adjustment will be made in the number of shares of BancGroup common stock into which the Commercial common stock will be converted in the Merger.

### **Election of Consideration**

The Agreement allows each Commercial shareholder to choose how many shares of his or her Commercial common stock will be converted to BancGroup common stock and how many shares of his or her Commercial common stock will be converted to cash. You may elect to receive only stock, only cash or some combination of both. If you do not make an election by the election deadline, then you will be deemed to have elected to receive 1.0107 shares of BancGroup common stock and \$24.50 in cash for each of your shares of Commercial common stock. The board of directors of Commercial believes that allowing this choice grants Commercial shareholders the opportunity to receive the form of consideration that is best suited to each shareholder's needs. If a Commercial shareholder elects to receive only cash as his or her consideration, and all Commercial shareholders opt in the aggregate to receive stock in exchange for at least 50% of Commercial's outstanding shares, then such Commercial shareholder will receive \$49.00 cash for each share of Commercial common stock that such shareholder owns. Any Commercial shareholder who receives cash in the merger should understand that any gain realized on the disposition of his or her Commercial common stock will be recognized to the extent of the cash received (see Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences). If a Commercial shareholder elects to receive only BancGroup common stock as his or her consideration, and all Commercial shareholders opt in the aggregate to receive cash in exchange for at least 50% of Commercial's outstanding shares, then such Commercial shareholder will receive 2.0214 shares of BancGroup common stock for each share of Commercial common stock that such shareholder owns. No income will be recognized by a Commercial shareholder if such shareholder receives BancGroup common stock and no cash as his or her merger consideration (although income would be recognized in connection with the receipt of cash in lieu of a fractional share).

You will be sent an election form in a few days. You should follow the instructions on the election form or the instructions given to you by your broker to elect the number of shares of Commercial common stock that you desire to be converted into cash and the number of shares of your Commercial common stock that you desire to be converted into BancGroup common stock. Enclosed with your Election Form will be a return envelope addressed to BancGroup's Transfer Agent, Computershare Investor Services LLC (the Exchange Agent). You should complete your election form and mail it and your Commercial stock certificate(s) to the Exchange Agent in the envelope provided. In the event an election form is received by the Exchange Agent without Commercial stock certificates, it will be returned.

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The Agreement places a maximum amount on BancGroup's obligation to pay cash and common stock for outstanding shares of Commercial common stock. Assuming there are 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock outstanding at the completion of the merger, the maximum cash amount would be \$152,433,659 and the maximum common stock issued would be 6,288,355 shares. If Commercial shareholders elect to receive more cash than the maximum cash amount, then the Commercial shareholders electing to receive cash would have their cash consideration reduced and their common stock consideration increased on a pro rata basis. Alternatively, if Commercial shareholders elect to receive more common stock than the maximum stock amount, then the Commercial shareholders electing to receive common stock would have their common stock consideration reduced and their cash consideration increased on a pro rata basis.

As an example, if there are 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock outstanding at the time of the completion of the merger (in which case BancGroup is not obligated to pay more than \$152,433,659 of the total Merger Consideration in cash), and the Commercial shareholders make an aggregate cash election of \$200,000,000, then that would be \$47,566,341 more than BancGroup is required to pay in cash, and would represent approximately 970,742 shares of Commercial common stock. The electing shareholders who had elected cash would have their cash portion of the Merger Consideration reduced on a pro rata basis and would instead receive an aggregate of 1,962,257 shares of BancGroup common stock. On an individual basis, each electing shareholder who had elected some portion of his or her Merger Consideration to be paid in cash would in fact receive cash for 76.2% of the Commercial common stock that he or she had originally elected to be paid in cash and the remaining 23.8% of Commercial common stock that the electing shareholder had requested cash for would be paid in BancGroup common stock. Thus, if a Commercial shareholder who owned 10,000 shares of Commercial common stock had elected to receive cash for 1,000 shares and BancGroup common stock for 9,000 shares, that shareholder would actually receive cash of \$37,338 for 762 shares of Commercial common stock and 18,673 shares of BancGroup common stock (plus \$16.80 for the cash value of a fractional share) for 9,238 shares of Commercial common stock.

The deadline to make an election is 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2007. If the Exchange Agent has not **received** your completed election form, including your Commercial certificates, by the deadline, then each share of your Commercial common stock will be converted into \$24.50 in cash and 1.0107 shares of BancGroup common stock (subject to pro-ration in the case of an over election of cash or stock consideration). You may change your election at any time prior to the election deadline, but once the election deadline has passed, all elections are final. You may, at any time prior to the election deadline, revoke your election by providing written notice to the Exchange Agent. The Exchange Agent's address and phone number are Computershare Investor Services LLC, P.O. Box 43078, Providence, RI 02940-3078 and (800) 485-1893.

If any portion of the Merger Consideration is to be paid to a person other than the person named on the Commercial common stock certificate, no payment can be made on that stock certificate unless it is properly endorsed or otherwise in proper form for transfer and the person requesting such payment shall pay to the Exchange Agent any transfer or other similar taxes required as a result of such payment to a person other than the registered holder of such Commercial stock certificate, or establish to the reasonable satisfaction of the Exchange Agent that such tax has been paid or is not payable. The Exchange Agent (or, subsequent to the six month anniversary of the completion of the merger, BancGroup) shall be entitled to deduct and withhold from the Merger Consideration (including cash in lieu of fractional shares of BancGroup common stock) otherwise payable in connection with the merger to any holder of Commercial common stock such amounts as the Exchange Agent or BancGroup, as the case may be, is required to deduct and withhold under the Internal Revenue Code, or any provision of state, local or foreign tax law, with respect to the making of such payment. To the extent the amounts are so withheld by the Exchange Agent or BancGroup, as the case may be, such withheld amounts shall be treated for all purposes as having been paid to the holder of shares of Commercial common stock in respect of whom such deduction and withholding was made by the Exchange Agent or BancGroup, as the case may be.

The Exchange Agent or BancGroup, as the case may be, in the exercise of its reasonable discretion, shall have the right to make all determinations, not inconsistent with the terms of the Agreement, governing (A) the

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validity of the election form and compliance by any Commercial shareholder with the election procedures, (B) the manner and extent to which elections are to be taken into account in making the determinations prescribed by the Agreement, (C) the issuance and delivery of BancGroup stock certificates into which shares of Commercial common stock are converted in the merger and (D) the method of payment of cash for shares of Commercial common stock converted into the right to receive cash and cash in lieu of fractional shares of BancGroup common stock where the holder of the applicable Commercial stock certificate has no right to receive whole shares of BancGroup common stock.

### **Surrender of Commercial Common Stock Certificates**

On the Effective Date and subject to the conditions described at Conditions to Consummation of the Merger, Commercial shareholders will automatically, and without further action by such shareholders or by BancGroup, become owners of BancGroup common stock and/or be entitled to receive a cash payment, as described herein. Outstanding certificates representing shares of the Commercial common stock will represent shares of BancGroup common stock or rights to a cash payment. Thereafter, upon surrender of the certificates formerly representing shares of Commercial common stock, the holders will be entitled to receive certificates for the BancGroup common stock and/or a cash payment. Dividends on the shares of BancGroup common stock will accumulate without interest and will not be distributed to any former shareholder of Commercial unless and until such shareholder surrenders for cancellation his certificate for Commercial common stock. No interest will be paid on any cash payment owed as consideration for the merger. Computershare Financial Services LLC, transfer agent for BancGroup common stock, will act as the Exchange Agent with respect to the shares of Commercial common stock surrendered in connection with the merger. The Exchange Agent will mail a detailed explanation of these arrangements to Commercial shareholders promptly following the Effective Date. **Do not send your stock certificates to the Exchange Agent unless you include an Election Form or until such notice is received.**

### **Treatment of Commercial Options**

*Vesting of Options.* As of the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, Commercial directors, executive officers and employees held outstanding options which entitle the holders thereof to acquire up to 424,759 shares of Commercial common stock ( Commercial Options ).

*Exercise of Options.* Prior to the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, holders who owned Commercial options granted under the Commercial Bankshares, Inc. 1994 Performance Stock Option Plan and 2004 Employee Stock Option Plans (collectively Employee Stock Option Plans ) were permitted to exercise their vested and unvested options for Commercial common stock through March 14, 2007.

Holders of Commercial Options granted under the Employee Stock Option Plans were given the alternative to exercise his or her Commercial Options for the right to receive a cash payment on the Effective Date. The amount of such cash payment is equal to the number of shares of Commercial common stock subject to each Commercial Option multiplied by the difference of \$49.00 and the per share exercise price of such Commercial Option, less any applicable withholding taxes. Each outside director and Joseph W. Armaly have agreed to elect the foregoing cashless exercise alternative with respect to all of their Options. Stock Options expiring on or about June 1, 2007 may be exercised by any holder thereof provided the merger has not closed prior to May 25, 2007.

The Commercial Options are issuable pursuant to the Commercial Bankshares, Inc. 1994 Performance Stock Option Plan and 2004 Employee Stock Option Plan and the Commercial Bankshares, Inc. 1994 and 2004 Outside Director Stock Option Plans. Commercial Options are not transferable except under the laws of descent and distribution.

Substantially all of the Commercial Options held by employees are incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code. Upon exercise of such an option, ordinary income would not normally result to the optionee even if the exercise price of the options is lower than the fair market value of the stock

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subject to the option at the date of exercise provided certain timing requirements are met. However, income could be recognized for alternative minimum tax purposes upon an exercise. No income for regular federal income tax purposes would be realized until the holder actually sells the stock obtained through the exercise of incentive stock options (or exchanges it for cash, as described above) as long as such stock is held long enough. The foregoing statements concerning federal income tax treatment are necessarily general and may not apply in a particular instance. Holders of Commercial options should contact their own professional tax advisors for advice concerning their particular tax situation.

**Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences**

This document was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used by any taxpayer, for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer. This document was written to support the promotion or marketing of the transaction or matters addressed in it. You should seek advice based on your particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor, not associated in any way with the transaction.

The merger is intended to qualify as a reorganization for federal income tax purposes under Section 368(a)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). The obligation of each of Commercial and BancGroup to consummate the merger is conditioned on the receipt of an opinion from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, BancGroup's tax advisor, to the effect that the merger will constitute such a reorganization. BancGroup has received this opinion. In delivering its opinion, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP received and relied upon certain representations contained in certificates of officers of BancGroup and Commercial and certain other information, data, documentation and other materials as it deemed necessary. The tax opinion is based upon customary assumptions contained therein, including the assumption that consideration other than BancGroup common stock (including cash in lieu of fractional shares and cash paid to Commercial shareholders that receive cash in the merger) will represent no more than 60% of the total fair market value of all consideration paid to Commercial shareholders in the transaction.

Neither Commercial nor BancGroup intends to seek a ruling from the IRS as to the federal income tax consequences of the merger. Shareholders of Commercial should be aware that the opinion from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will not be binding on the IRS or the courts. Shareholders of Commercial also should be aware that some of the tax consequences of the merger are governed by provisions of the Code as to which there are no final regulations and little or no judicial or administrative guidance. There can be no assurance that future legislation, administrative rulings, or court decisions will not adversely affect the accuracy of the statements contained herein.

The tax opinion states that, provided the assumptions therein are satisfied, the merger will constitute a reorganization as defined in Section 368(a) of the Code, and the following federal income tax consequences will result to Commercial shareholders who exchange their shares of Commercial common stock for shares of BancGroup common stock, cash or a combination:

- (i) No gain or loss will be recognized by BancGroup or Commercial as a result of the Merger;
- (ii) The Commercial shareholders will not recognize any gain or loss related to BancGroup common stock received in exchange for their shares of Commercial common stock. To the extent that both cash and stock are received by a shareholder in the merger, gain (but not loss) will be recognized to the extent of the cash received.
- (iii) The tax basis of the BancGroup common stock received by each Commercial shareholder will equal the tax basis of such shareholder's Commercial shares surrendered in the merger, decreased by the fair market value of the consideration (other than BancGroup common stock) and the amount of cash received by such Commercial shareholder in the merger and increased by (i) the amount of gain, if any, recognized by such Commercial shareholder on the receipt of such other consideration and (ii) the amount, if any, which is treated as a dividend;
- (iv) The holding period of the BancGroup common stock received by the Commercial shareholders will include the holding period during which the Commercial common stock surrendered in exchange



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therefor was held, provided that such stock is held as a capital asset in the hands of the Commercial shareholders on the date of the exchange under Internal Revenue Code Section 1223(1); and

(v) The cash received by a Commercial shareholder in lieu of a fractional share interest of BancGroup common stock will be treated as having been received as a distribution in full payment in exchange for the fractional share interest of BancGroup stock which he or she would otherwise be entitled to receive and will qualify for either capital gain or loss treatment, provided that such stock is held as a capital asset in the hands of the Commercial shareholder on the date of the exchange under Internal Revenue Code Section 1223(1).

Each Commercial shareholder will be required to report on such shareholder's federal income tax return for the fiscal year of such shareholder in which the merger occurs that such shareholder has received BancGroup common stock in a reorganization.

THE FOREGOING DISCUSSION IS INTENDED ONLY AS A SUMMARY OF MATERIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE MERGER TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF COMMERCIAL, TO COMMERCIAL AND TO BANCGROUP AND DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF ALL POTENTIAL TAX EFFECTS OF THE MERGER. THE DISCUSSION DOES NOT ADDRESS THE TAX CONSEQUENCES THAT MAY BE RELEVANT TO A PARTICULAR SHAREHOLDER SUBJECT TO SPECIAL TREATMENT UNDER CERTAIN FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS, SUCH AS DEALERS IN SECURITIES, BANKS, INSURANCE COMPANIES, TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS, NON-UNITED STATES PERSONS, SHAREHOLDERS WHO DO NOT HOLD THEIR SHARES OF COMMERCIAL COMMON STOCK AS CAPITAL ASSETS WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 1221 OF THE CODE, AND SHAREHOLDERS WHO ACQUIRED THEIR SHARES OF COMMERCIAL COMMON STOCK PURSUANT TO THE EXERCISE OF OPTIONS OR OTHERWISE AS COMPENSATION, NOR ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY STATE, LOCALITY OR FOREIGN JURISDICTION; MOREOVER, THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO HOLDERS OF COMMERCIAL OPTIONS ARE NOT DISCUSSED. THE DISCUSSION IS BASED UPON THE CODE, TREASURY REGULATIONS THEREUNDER AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULINGS AND COURT DECISIONS AS OF THE DATE HEREOF. ALL OF THE FOREGOING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND ANY SUCH CHANGE COULD AFFECT THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THIS DISCUSSION. COMMERCIAL SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS CONCERNING THE PARTICULAR FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE MERGER TO THEM.

**Other Possible Consequences**

If the merger is consummated, the shareholders of Commercial, a Florida corporation, will become shareholders of BancGroup, a Delaware business corporation. For a discussion of the differences, if any, in the rights, preferences, and privileges attaching to Commercial common stock as compared with BancGroup common stock, see Comparative Rights of Shareholders.

**Conditions to Consummation of the Merger**

The parties' respective obligations to consummate the merger are subject to the satisfaction (or waiver, to the extent permitted by law) of various conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement.

The obligations of Commercial and BancGroup to consummate the merger are conditioned upon, among other things, (i) the approval of the Merger Agreement by the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of Commercial common stock; (ii) the notification to, or approval of the merger by, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Florida Office of Financial Regulation; (iii) the absence of pending or threatened litigation with a view to restraining or prohibiting consummation of the merger or to obtain divestiture, rescission or damages in connection with the merger; (iv) the absence of any investigation by any governmental agency which might result in any such proceeding; and

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(v) consummation of the merger no later than October 31, 2007. The Merger Agreement permits the parties to waive, in writing, conditions for the consummation of the merger other than those required by law.

The obligation of Commercial to consummate the merger is further subject to several other conditions, including: (i) the absence of any material adverse change in the financial condition or affairs of BancGroup; (ii) the shares of BancGroup common stock to be issued under the Merger Agreement shall have been approved for listing on the NYSE; and (iii) the accuracy in all material respects of the representations and warranties of BancGroup contained in the Merger Agreement and the performance by BancGroup of all of its covenants and agreements under the Merger Agreement.

The obligation of BancGroup to consummate the merger is subject to several other conditions, including: (i) the absence of any material adverse change in the financial condition or affairs of Commercial; (ii) the accuracy in all material respects of the representations and warranties of Commercial contained in the Merger Agreement, (iii) the performance by Commercial of all of its covenants and agreements under the Merger Agreement, including certain restrictions on Commercial's conduct of its business; and (iv) the receipt of the applicable consents to the merger.

It is anticipated that the foregoing conditions, as well as certain other conditions contained in the Merger Agreement, such as the receipt of certificates of officers of each party as to compliance with the Merger Agreement and satisfaction of each party of all representations, warranties and covenants, will either be satisfied or waived by the parties. The Merger Agreement provides that each of Commercial and BancGroup may waive all conditions to its respective obligation to consummate the merger, other than the receipt of the requisite approvals of regulatory authorities and approval of the Merger Agreement by the shareholders of Commercial. In making any decision regarding a waiver of one or more conditions to consummation of the merger or an amendment of the Merger Agreement, the Boards of Directors of Commercial and BancGroup would be subject to the fiduciary duty standards imposed upon such boards by relevant law that would require such boards to act in the best interests of their respective shareholders.

### **Amendment or Termination of Merger Agreement**

To the extent permitted by law, the Merger Agreement may be amended by a subsequent writing signed by each of the parties upon the approval of the Boards of Directors of each of the parties. However, after approval of the Merger Agreement by the holders of Commercial common stock, no amendment changing the amount or kind of consideration to be received by Commercial shareholders or changing any other terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement if such change would materially and adversely affect Commercial or the holders of Commercial common stock may be made without the further approval of such shareholders. The Merger Agreement may be terminated at any time prior to or on the Effective Date, whether before or after approval of the Merger Agreement by the shareholders of Commercial, by the mutual consent of the respective Boards of Directors of Commercial and BancGroup or by the Board of Directors of either BancGroup or Commercial under certain circumstances including, but not limited to: (i) a material breach which cannot or has not been cured within 30 days of notice of such breach being given by the non-breaching party, (ii) failure to consummate the transactions contemplated under the Merger Agreement by October 31, 2007, provided that such failure to consummate is not caused by any breach of the Merger Agreement by the party electing to terminate and (iii) if Commercial enters into a binding agreement with any third party to merge with, or sell control to, that third party. In the latter event, BancGroup will have the right to receive a payment of \$12,500,000 (the Termination Fee) from Commercial or its acquirer.

### **Commitment with Respect to Other Offers**

Until the earlier of the Effective Date or, subject to certain limitations, the termination of the Agreement, neither Commercial nor any of its directors or officers (or any person representing any of the foregoing) may directly or indirectly solicit inquiries or proposals with respect to, furnish any information relating to or participate in any negotiations or discussions concerning, any acquisition or purchase of all or of a substantial portion of the assets of, or of a substantial equity interest in, Commercial or any business combination involving

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Commercial (collectively, an Acquisition Proposal ) other than as contemplated by the Agreement. Commercial is required to notify BancGroup promptly if any such inquiries or proposals are received by Commercial, if any such information is requested from Commercial, or if any such negotiations or discussions are sought to be initiated with Commercial. Commercial is required to instruct its officers, directors, agents or affiliates or their subsidiaries to refrain from doing any of the above. Commercial may communicate information about an Acquisition Proposal to its shareholders if and to the extent Commercial's board of directors, after consultation with counsel determines that it is required to do so in order to comply with its legal obligations.

If Commercial enters into a letter of intent or a definitive agreement to be acquired by any party other than BancGroup prior to the closing of the merger or the termination of the Agreement, or, under certain circumstances, if Commercial is acquired by a party other than BancGroup within twelve months after the termination of the Agreement, then BancGroup shall be entitled to receive payment of the Termination Fee. Such payment shall compensate BancGroup for its direct and indirect costs and expenses associated with pursuing the merger and BancGroup's loss as a result of the failure to complete the merger. The Termination Fee may also have the effect of increasing the likelihood that the Merger will be consummated by making it more difficult and expensive for any third party to acquire control of Commercial while BancGroup is seeking to consummate the Merger.

## **Regulatory Approvals**

Section 8.2 of the Agreement provides that as a condition to closing, approvals, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to BancGroup and Commercial, shall have been entered by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and other appropriate bank regulatory agencies granting the authority necessary for the consummation of the holding company merger and the possible merger of Commercial Bank with and into Colonial Bank (the Bank Merger ), if such Bank Merger is desired by BancGroup.

An application must be filed with the Federal Reserve pursuant to Section 3 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the BHCA ) and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto for its prior approval of BancGroup's merger with Commercial. In addition, approval of BancGroup's acquisition of Commercial Bank as a result of the holding company merger must be obtained from the Florida Office of Financial Regulation (the Florida Office ). These applications were filed on February 28, 2007. On April 6, 2007, the Federal Reserve approved BancGroup's Section 3 application.

In order to be in a position to consummate the Bank Merger should BancGroup decide to effect it, the prior approval of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the OCC ) must be obtained and notice of the Bank Merger must be filed with the Florida Office. With respect to the Bank Merger, an application was filed with the OCC on March 1, 2007, and a notification was filed with the Florida Office on March 7, 2007. Additional information was filed with the OCC on March 15, 2007.

*Federal Reserve Approval.* Pursuant to Section 3 of the BHCA, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, the approval of the Federal Reserve must be obtained prior to BancGroup merging with Commercial. In evaluating an application filed pursuant to Section 3, the Federal Reserve will consider whether the performance of the activities can reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public (such as greater convenience, increased competition and gains in efficiency) that outweigh possible adverse effects (such as undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition and unsound banking practices). The Federal Reserve will also take into consideration, among other factors, the financial condition and managerial resources of BancGroup, its subsidiaries, Commercial and Commercial Bank. The Federal Reserve will also consider the convenience and needs of the communities to be served and the compliance records of Colonial Bank and Commercial Bank under the Community Reinvestment Act.

In addition, the Federal Reserve is expressly permitted to approve applications under Section 3 of the BHCA for a bank holding company that is adequately capitalized and adequately managed to acquire control of a bank located in a state other than the home state of such bank holding company (an Interstate Acquisition ), without regard to whether such transaction is prohibited under the law of any state.

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Under certain circumstances, the Federal Reserve is prohibited from approving an Interstate Acquisition. For example, it may not approve an Interstate Acquisition if the acquiring bank holding company controls, or upon consummation of the acquisition, would control, more than 10% of the total amount of deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States. Subject to certain exceptions, the Federal Reserve may not approve an application pertaining to an Interstate Acquisition if, among other things, the bank holding company, upon consummation of the acquisition, would control 30% or more of the total amount of deposits of insured depository institutions in the state where the target bank is located.

The Federal Reserve's regulations provide for the publication of notice and public comment on the application and authorize the Federal Reserve to permit interested parties to intervene in the proceedings. If an interested party is permitted to intervene, such intervention could delay the regulatory approval required for consummation of the transaction.

*Florida Office Approval.* The Florida Office must approve the change of control of Commercial Bank which would be effected by the holding company merger. Pursuant to Section 658.25 of the Florida Banking Code, the Florida Office shall issue a Certificate of Approval for a change in control of a Florida state bank only after it has made an investigation and has determined that the proposed new owner of a controlling interest of such Florida state bank is qualified by reputation, character, experience, and financial responsibility to control and operate the bank in a legal and proper manner and that the interest of the other shareholders, if any, and the depositors and creditors of the bank and the interest of the public generally will not be jeopardized by the proposed change in ownership, controlling interest or management.

*OCC Approval.* Pursuant to Section 18(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (the Bank Merger Act) and OCC regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, the OCC's prior approval of the Bank Merger must be obtained in order for BancGroup to directly merge Commercial Bank with and into Colonial Bank. The OCC is prohibited from approving the Bank Merger if it would result in a monopoly or would be in furtherance of any combination or conspiracy to monopolize or to attempt to monopolize the business of banking in any part of the United States. In addition, the OCC is prohibited from approving the Bank Merger if its effect, in any section of the country, would be substantially to lessen competition, or to tend to create a monopoly, or which in any other manner would be in restraint of trade, unless it finds that the anti-competitive effects of the Bank Merger are clearly outweighed in the public interest by the probable effect of the Bank Merger in meeting the convenience and needs of the community to be served. The OCC is required to take into consideration the financial and managerial resources and future prospects of the existing and proposed institutions, and the convenience and needs of the communities to be served. The OCC will consider the compliance records of Colonial Bank and Commercial Bank under the Community Reinvestment Act and the effectiveness of the institutions in combating money laundering activities.

Because the Bank Merger is an interstate bank merger, certain additional requirements are applicable. For example, the OCC is prohibited from approving the Bank Merger if the bank resulting from the Bank Merger, including all insured depository institutions that are affiliates of such resulting bank, upon consummation of the transaction, would control more than 10% of the total amount of deposits of insured depository institutions in the United States. The OCC is also prohibited from approving the Bank Merger if either party to the Bank Merger has a branch in any state in which any other bank involved in the Bank Merger has a branch, and the resulting bank, upon consummation of the Bank Merger, would control 30% or more of the total amount of deposits of insured depository institutions in any such state. Finally, the OCC may approve an interstate bank merger only if each bank involved in the transaction is adequately capitalized as of the date the application is filed, and the OCC determines that the resulting bank will continue to be adequately capitalized and adequately managed upon consummation of the Bank Merger.

The Bank Merger Act and the OCC regulations promulgated pursuant thereto provide for the publication of notice and public comment on the application and authorize the OCC to permit interested parties to intervene in the proceedings. If an interested party is permitted to intervene, such intervention could delay the regulatory

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approval required for consummation of the Bank Merger. The Bank Merger Act imposes a waiting period which prohibits consummation of the Bank Merger, in ordinary circumstances, for a period ranging from 15 to 30 days following the OCC's approval of the Bank Merger. During such period, the United States Department of Justice, should it object to the Bank Merger for antitrust reasons, may challenge the consummation of the Bank Merger.

The Agreement provides that the obligation of each of BancGroup and Commercial to consummate the transaction is conditioned upon the receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals. There can be no assurance that the applications necessary for BancGroup to consummate the transaction will be approved, and, if such approvals are received, that such approvals will not be conditioned upon terms and conditions that would cause the parties to abandon the transaction.

Any approval received from bank regulatory agencies reflects only their view that the transaction does not contravene applicable competitive standards imposed by law, and that the transaction is consistent with regulatory policies relating to safety and soundness. **THE APPROVAL OF THE BANK REGULATORY AGENCIES IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OR RECOMMENDATION OF THE TRANSACTION.**

BancGroup is not aware of any governmental approvals or actions that may be required for consummation of the transaction except for the approvals described above. Should any such approval or action be required, it is presently contemplated that such approval or action would be sought.

### **Conduct of Business Pending the Merger**

The Merger Agreement contains certain restrictions on the conduct of the business of Commercial pending consummation of the merger. The Merger Agreement prohibits Commercial from taking, without the prior written consent of BancGroup, any of the following actions, prior to the Effective Date, subject to certain limited exceptions previously agreed to by BancGroup and Commercial:

- (i) Issuing, delivering or agreeing to issue or deliver any stock, bonds or other corporate securities (whether authorized and unissued or held in the treasury), except shares of Commercial common stock issued upon the exercise of Commercial Options and shares issued as director's qualifying shares;
- (ii) Borrowing or agreeing to borrow any funds or incurring or becoming subject to, any liability (absolute or contingent) except borrowings, obligations and liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice;
- (iii) Paying any material obligation or liability (absolute or contingent) other than current liabilities reflected in or shown on the most recent balance sheet and current liabilities incurred since that date in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice;
- (iv) Declaring or making or agreeing to declare or make, any payment of dividends or distributions of any assets of any kind whatsoever to shareholders, or purchasing or redeeming or agreeing to purchase or redeem, any of its outstanding securities, provided that Commercial may continue to make its normal quarterly cash dividends of no more than \$0.21 per share at times consistent with past practice and accelerate the vesting of Commercial Options;
- (v) Except in the ordinary course of business or as requested by BancGroup, selling or transferring or agreeing to sell or transfer, any of its assets, property or rights or canceling, or agreeing to cancel, any debts or claims;
- (vi) Except in the ordinary course of business, entering or agreeing to enter into any agreement or arrangement granting any preferential rights to purchase any of its assets, property or rights or requiring the consent of any party to the transfer and assignment of any of its assets, property or rights;
- (vii) Waiving any rights of value which in the aggregate are material considering the business as a whole;

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(viii) Except in the ordinary course of business, making or permitting any amendment or termination of any contract, agreement or license to which it is a party if such amendment or termination is material considering its business as a whole;

(ix) Except in accordance with past practice, making any accrual or arrangement for or payment of bonuses or special compensation of any kind or any severance or termination pay to any present or former officer or employee;

(x) Except in accordance with past practice, increasing the rate of compensation payable to or to become payable to any of its officers or employees or making any material increase in any profit-sharing, bonus, deferred compensation, savings, insurance, pension, retirement or other employee benefit plan, payment or arrangement made to, for or with any of its officers or employees;

(xi) Failing to operate its business in the ordinary course in a manner intended so as to preserve its business intact and intended to preserve the goodwill of its customers and others with whom it has business relations;

(xii) Entering into any other material transaction other than in the ordinary course of business or as requested by BancGroup; and

(xiii) Agreeing in writing, or otherwise, to take any action described in clauses (i) through (xii) above.

The Merger Agreement provides that, prior to the Effective Date, Commercial will use its commercially reasonable efforts so that no director or officer of Commercial or any of its subsidiaries shall, directly or indirectly, own, manage, operate, join, control, be employed by or participate in the ownership, proposed ownership, management, operation or control of or be connected in any manner with, any business, corporation or partnership which is competitive to the business of Commercial or its subsidiaries.

The Merger Agreement also provides that: (i) at the request of BancGroup, Commercial will consult with BancGroup and advise BancGroup in advance of all loan requests outside the ordinary course of business or in excess of \$1,000,000 (excluding renewals) that are not single-family residential loan requests; and (ii) Commercial will consult with BancGroup on a reasonable basis to coordinate various business issues.

## **Indemnification**

BancGroup has agreed to indemnify for six years present and former directors and officers of Commercial and Commercial Bank against liabilities arising out of actions or omissions occurring at or prior to the Effective Date to the maximum extent allowed under the Florida Business Corporation Act, Bylaws of Commercial and pursuant to any existing indemnification agreements. BancGroup has also agreed to extend such indemnification to directors of Commercial Bank with respect to matters existing or occurring after the Effective Date during any extended term of service as a director of Commercial Bank. The foregoing indemnification is also subject to the limitations imposed by 12 U.S.C. §1828(K) and 12 CFR Part 359 of the FDIC regulations.

## **Appraisal Rights**

Commercial is a Florida corporation, and under Florida law Commercial shareholders are not entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the Merger. Pursuant to Section 607.1302 of the Florida Business Corporation Act, appraisal rights are not available to holders of shares of any class that are designated as a national market system security on an interdealer quotation system by the National Association of Securities Dealers (as is Commercial common stock) where the shareholders are not required by the terms of the Merger to accept in exchange for their shares anything other than (a) cash, or (b) shares of stock of a corporation listed on a national securities exchange (as is BancGroup common stock). Because the terms of the Merger Agreement and the circumstances of the companies satisfy these conditions, rights of appraisal are not available in connection with the Merger.

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### **Delisting and Deregistration of Commercial Common Stock after the Merger**

When the Merger is completed, the Commercial common stock will be delisted from The Nasdaq National Market and will be deregistered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

### **Resale of BancGroup Common Stock Issued in the Merger**

The issuance of the shares of BancGroup common stock pursuant to the Merger (including any shares to be issued pursuant to Commercial Options) has been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act). As a result, shareholders of Commercial who are not affiliates of Commercial (as such term is defined under the Securities Act) may resell, without restriction, all shares of BancGroup common stock which they receive in connection with the Merger. Under the Securities Act, only affiliates of Commercial are subject to restrictions on the resale of the BancGroup common stock which they receive in the Merger.

The BancGroup common stock received by affiliates of Commercial (directors and executive officers) who do not also become affiliates of BancGroup after the consummation of the Merger may not be sold except pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act covering such shares or in compliance with Rule 145 under the Securities Act or another applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. Generally, Rule 145 permits BancGroup common stock held by such shareholders to be sold in accordance with certain provisions of Rule 144 under the Securities Act. In general, these provisions of Rule 144 permit a person to sell on the open market in brokers or certain other transactions within any three-month period a number of shares that does not exceed the greater of 1% of the then outstanding shares of BancGroup common stock or the average weekly trading volume in BancGroup common stock reported on the NYSE during the four calendar weeks preceding such sale. Sales under Rule 144 are also subject to the availability of current public information about BancGroup. The restrictions on sales will cease to apply under most circumstances once the former Commercial affiliate has held the BancGroup common stock for at least one year. BancGroup common stock held by affiliates of Commercial who become affiliates of BancGroup, if any, will be subject to additional restrictions on the ability of such persons to resell such shares.

Commercial has provided BancGroup with the identity of those persons who may be deemed to be affiliates of Commercial. Commercial has obtained from each such person a written undertaking to the effect that no sale or transfer will be made of any shares of BancGroup common stock by such person except pursuant to Rule 145 or pursuant to an effective registration statement or an exemption from registration under the Securities Act.

### **Accounting Treatment**

BancGroup will account for the Merger as a purchase transaction in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The purchase price will be assigned to the fair value of the net tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired, with any amounts in excess thereof being assigned to goodwill. The valuation of intangibles, if any, will be made as of the Effective Date of the Merger. Qualifying intangibles, such as core deposit intangibles, will be amortized by charges to future earnings over their expected useful lives. The goodwill will be recognized and evaluated for impairment on an annual basis, or if circumstances arise in which it is more likely than not the fair value of the related reporting unit has been reduced. If such goodwill were to be deemed impaired, such impairment would be measured and any such amount would be charged against current earnings.

### **NYSE Listing of BancGroup Common Stock Issued in the Merger**

Sales of BancGroup common stock to be issued in the Merger in exchange for shares of Commercial common stock will be listed on the NYSE.

**Table of Contents****COMPARATIVE MARKET PRICES AND DIVIDENDS**

*BancGroup.* BancGroup common stock is listed for trading on the NYSE under the symbol CNB. The following table indicates the high and low sales prices of the BancGroup common stock as reported on the NYSE and dividends paid since January 1, 2004.

	Price Per Share of		Dividends Per Share
	Common Stock High	Common Stock Low	
<b>2004</b>			
First Quarter	\$ 18.58	\$ 16.52	\$ 0.145
Second Quarter	18.28	16.78	0.145
Third Quarter	20.66	17.81	0.145
Fourth Quarter	22.45	20.53	0.145
<b>2005</b>			
First Quarter	\$ 21.47	\$ 19.76	\$ 0.1525
Second Quarter	23.20	20.15	0.1525
Third Quarter	23.65	22.23	0.1525
Fourth Quarter	25.74	21.58	0.1525
<b>2006</b>			
First Quarter	\$ 25.26	\$ 23.69	\$ 0.17
Second Quarter	26.97	24.59	0.17
Third Quarter	26.01	23.96	0.17
Fourth Quarter	25.97	23.53	0.17
<b>2007</b>			
First Quarter	\$ 26.80	\$ 23.86	\$ 0.1875
Second Quarter (through April 12, 2007)	24.84	23.49	

*Commercial.* Commercial common stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market automated securities exchange under the symbol CLBK. The following table indicates the high and low sales prices of the Commercial common stock as reported on the NASDAQ National Market and dividends paid since January 1, 2004.

	Price Per Share of		Dividends Per Share
	Common Stock High	Common Stock Low	
<b>2004</b>			
First Quarter	\$ 29.57	\$ 25.84	\$ 0.16
Second Quarter	29.09	23.83	0.16
Third Quarter	31.34	25.50	0.17
Fourth Quarter	39.75	29.40	0.22
<b>2005</b>			
First Quarter	\$ 40.45	\$ 37.26	\$ 0.17
Second Quarter	41.25	35.40	0.17
Third Quarter	41.02	36.70	0.17
Fourth Quarter	39.01	33.21	0.20
<b>2006</b>			
First Quarter	\$ 39.09	\$ 33.28	\$ 0.20
Second Quarter	36.98	33.17	0.20
Third Quarter	36.81	34.30	0.20
Fourth Quarter	39.27	35.50	0.21
<b>2007</b>			



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First Quarter	\$ 51.04	\$ 36.70	\$ 0.21
Second Quarter (through April 12, 2007)	48.89	48.05	

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On January 22, 2007, the business day immediately prior to the public announcement of the Merger, the closing price of the BancGroup common stock on the NYSE was \$24.60 per share. The following table presents the market value per share of BancGroup common stock on that date, and the market value and equivalent per share value of Commercial common stock on that date:

	<b>BancGroup Common Stock(1)</b>	<b>Commercial Common Stock(2)</b>	<b>Equivalent Price Per Commercial Share(3)</b>
Comparative Market Value	\$ 24.60	\$ 37.50	\$ 49.36

- (1) Closing price as reported by the NYSE on January 22, 2007.
- (2) Closing price as reported by the NASDAQ National Market on January 22, 2007.
- (3) If the Merger had closed on January 22, 2007, and if the Commercial shareholder had received the default consideration, then \$24.50 and 1.0107 shares of BancGroup common stock would have been exchanged for each share of Commercial common stock.

**Table of Contents****BANCGROUP CAPITAL STOCK AND LONG TERM DEBT**

BancGroup's authorized capital stock consists of 400,000,000 shares of BancGroup common stock, par value \$2.50 per share, 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$2.50 par value and 1,000,000 shares of preference stock, \$2.50 par value per share. As of December 31, 2006, there were outstanding a total of 152,852,381 shares of BancGroup common stock. No shares of preferred stock or preference stock were issued and outstanding. Additionally, BancGroup had various issuances of long-term debt outstanding at December 31, 2006 summarized as follows and described more fully below, under BancGroup Debt.

	<b>December 31, 2006</b> <b>(in thousands)</b>
Variable rate subordinated debentures	\$ 7,725
Subordinated notes	376,114
Junior subordinated debt	299,078
FHLB borrowings	1,835,229
Capital lease obligations	4,128
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,522,274</b>

The following statements with respect to BancGroup common stock, preferred stock and preference stock are brief summaries of material provisions of Delaware law, the Restated Certificate of Incorporation (the BancGroup Certificate), as amended, and Bylaws of BancGroup, do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the foregoing.

**BancGroup Common Stock**

*Dividends.* Subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock and/or preference stock, if any, to receive certain dividends prior to the declaration of dividends on shares of BancGroup common stock, when and as dividends, payable in cash, stock or other property, are declared by the BancGroup Board of Directors, the holders of BancGroup common stock are entitled to share ratably in such dividends.

*Voting Rights.* Each holder of BancGroup common stock has one vote for each share held on matters presented for consideration by the shareholders.

*Preemptive Rights.* The holders of BancGroup common stock have no preemptive rights to acquire any additional shares of BancGroup.

*Issuance of Stock.* The BancGroup Certificate authorizes the Board of Directors of BancGroup to issue authorized shares of BancGroup common stock without shareholder approval. However, BancGroup's common stock is listed on the NYSE, which requires shareholder approval of the issuance of additional shares of BancGroup common stock under certain circumstances.

*Liquidation Rights.* In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of BancGroup, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of BancGroup common stock will be entitled to share ratably in any of its assets or funds that are available for distribution to its shareholders after the satisfaction of its liabilities (or after adequate provision is made therefor) and after preferences of any outstanding preferred stock and/or preference stock.

**Preferred Stock**

The preferred stock may be issued from time to time as a class without series, or if so determined by the Board of Directors of BancGroup, either in whole or in part in one or more series. The voting rights, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, if any, and the qualifications,

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limitations or restrictions thereof, if any, including, but not limited to, the dividend rights, conversion rights, redemption rights and liquidation preferences, if any, of any wholly unissued series of preferred stock (or of the entire class of preferred stock if none of such shares has been issued), the number of shares constituting any such series and the terms and conditions of the issue thereof may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors of BancGroup. Preferred stock may have a preference over the BancGroup common stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets in the event of the liquidation or winding-up of BancGroup and such other preferences as may be fixed by the Board of Directors of BancGroup. The preferred stock is available for possible financing, acquisition transactions, capital management and other general purposes, but BancGroup has undertaken not to use the preferred stock as an anti-takeover device.

### **Preference Stock**

The preference stock may be issued from time to time as a class without series, or if so determined by the Board of Directors of BancGroup, either in whole or in part in one or more series. The voting rights, and such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, if any, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, if any, including, but not limited to, the dividend rights, conversion rights, redemption rights and liquidation preferences, if any, of any wholly unissued series of preference stock (or of the entire class of preference stock if none of such shares has been issued), the number of shares constituting any such series and the terms and conditions of the issue thereof may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors of BancGroup. Preference stock may have a preference over the BancGroup common stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets in the event of the liquidation or winding-up of BancGroup and such other preferences as may be fixed by the Board of Directors of BancGroup. The preference stock is available for possible financing, acquisition transactions, capital management and other general purposes, including being used as an anti-takeover device.

### **BancGroup Debt**

In connection with the ASB Bancshares, Inc. acquisition on February 5, 1998, BancGroup issued \$7,725,000 of variable rate subordinated debentures due February 5, 2008 ( 1998 Debentures ). These variable rate subordinated debentures bear interest equal to the New York Prime Rate minus 1% (but in no event less than 7% per annum).

On March 15, 1999, Colonial Bank issued \$100 million of subordinated notes, due March 15, 2009, of which \$56.7 million was outstanding at December 31, 2006. The notes qualify as Tier II capital, bear interest at 8.00% and are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

On May 23, 2001, Colonial Bank issued \$150 million in 9.375% subordinated notes due June 1, 2011, of which \$56.8 million was outstanding at December 31, 2006. This debt qualifies as Tier II capital. In connection with this issuance, Colonial Bank executed an interest rate swap whereby Colonial Bank will receive a fixed rate and pay a floating rate, effectively converting the fixed rate notes to floating. The result of this interest rate swap created an effective floating rate of 3-month LIBOR plus 3.2775%.

Effective December 7, 2005, Colonial Bank issued \$125 million in new subordinated notes and exchanged \$43.3 million of the March 1999 subordinated notes and \$93.2 million of the May 2001 subordinated notes for new subordinated notes. The new notes are due December 1, 2015 and bear interest at 6.375%. Concurrent with this exchange, Colonial Bank partially terminated the interest rate swaps on the original subordinated notes in an amount equal to the principal value of the notes exchanged. Colonial Bank executed four interest rate swaps effectively converting the fixed rate on the new notes to an effective floating rate of 3-month LIBOR plus 1.3771%.

On January 29, 1997, BancGroup issued, through a special purpose trust, \$70 million of trust preferred securities, representing \$72 million in junior subordinated debt, that qualified as Tier I capital. The securities bore interest at 8.92% and were subject to redemption by BancGroup, in whole or in part, at any time on or after January 29, 2007 until maturity in January 2027. On February 2, 2007 BancGroup redeemed these trust preferred securities.

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On March 21, 2002, BancGroup issued, through a special purpose trust, \$100 million of trust preferred securities, representing \$103 million in junior subordinated debt, that qualify as Tier I capital. The securities bear interest at 8.32% and are subject to redemption by BancGroup, in whole or in part, at any time on or after April 1, 2007 until maturity in April 2032.

On September 16, 2003, BancGroup issued, through a special purpose trust, \$100 million of trust preferred securities, representing \$103 million in junior subordinated debt, that qualify as Tier I capital. The securities bear interest at 7.875% and are subject to redemption by BancGroup, in whole or in part, at any time on or after October 1, 2008 until maturity in October 2033.

In May 2004, BancGroup added \$15 million in trust preferred securities, representing \$15 million in junior subordinated debt, as part of the acquisition of P.C.B. Bancorp, Inc. These securities qualify as Tier I capital and bear interest at average rates of 3-month LIBOR plus 3.40% on \$10 million and 3-month LIBOR plus 3.15% on \$5 million. BancGroup may redeem \$10 million, in whole or in part, on any March 26, June 26, September 26 or December 26 on or after September 26, 2007 until maturity in September 2032. BancGroup may redeem \$5 million, in whole or in part, on any March 26, June 26, September 26 or December 26 on or after March 26, 2008 until maturity in March 2033.

In May 2005, BancGroup added \$5 million in trust preferred securities, representing \$5 million in junior subordinated debt, as part of the acquisition of FFLC Bancorp, Inc. These securities qualify as Tier I capital and bear interest at a rate of 3-month LIBOR plus 3.40%. The securities are subject to redemption by BancGroup, in whole or in part, on any March 26, June 26, September 26 or December 26 on or after September 26, 2007 until maturity in September 2032.

The subordinated debentures, notes, trust preferred securities and junior subordinated debt described above are subordinate to substantially all remaining liabilities of BancGroup.

Colonial Bank had long-term FHLB borrowings outstanding of \$1.8 billion at December 31, 2006. These borrowings bear interest rates ranging from 3.33% to 5.46% and mature from 2007 to 2026. FHLB credit availability at December 31, 2006 was \$1.3 billion based on current collateral, which consists of 1-4 family residential, commercial real estate, home equity lines of credit, and second mortgage loans, along with specified mortgage-backed securities.

Colonial Bank had capital lease obligations outstanding of \$4.1 million at December 31, 2006. These obligations bear interest at a weighted average rate of 5.6% and mature from 2007 to 2017.

The par value of long-term debt as of December 31, 2006 is scheduled to mature as shown in the table below. This schedule excludes all carrying value adjustments, such as purchase accounting fair value adjustments, hedge accounting fair value adjustments and unamortized premiums and discounts, that will not affect future cash payments associated with the maturity of this debt.

	<b>BancGroup (in thousands)</b>
2007	\$ 32,611
2008	13,089
2009	61,814
2010	5,118
2011	91,803
Thereafter	2,384,317
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,588,752</b>

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### **Change in Control**

Certain provisions of the BancGroup Certificate and the BancGroup Bylaws may have the effect of preventing, discouraging or delaying any change in control of BancGroup. The BancGroup Board of Directors is authorized to issue BancGroup preference stock with such rights and privileges, including voting rights, as it may deem appropriate in order to enable BancGroup's Board of Directors to prevent a change in control despite a shift in ownership of the BancGroup common stock. See *Preference Stock*. In addition, the power of BancGroup's Board of Directors to issue additional shares of BancGroup common stock may help delay or deter a change in control by increasing the number of shares needed to gain control. See *BancGroup Common Stock*. The following provisions also may deter any change in control of BancGroup.

*Classified Board.* BancGroup's Board of Directors is classified into three classes, as nearly equal in number as possible, with the members of each class elected to three-year terms. Thus, one-third of BancGroup's Board of Directors is elected by shareholders each year. With this provision, two annual elections are required in order to change a majority of the Board of Directors. There are currently 16 directors of BancGroup. This provision of the BancGroup Certificate also stipulates that (i) directors can be removed only for cause upon a vote of 80% of the voting power of the outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors, voting as a class, (ii) vacancies in the Board of Directors may only be filled by a majority vote of the directors remaining in office, (iii) the maximum number of directors shall be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors, and (iv) the provisions relating to the classified Board of Directors can only be amended by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the voting power of the outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors, voting as a class.

*Business Combinations.* Certain Business Combinations of BancGroup with a Related Person may only be undertaken with the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the outstanding shares of Voting Stock, plus the affirmative vote of at least 67% of the outstanding shares of Voting Stock, not counting shares owned by the Related Person, unless the continuing Directors of BancGroup approve such Business Combination. A Related Person is a person, or group, who owns or acquires 10% or more of the outstanding shares of BancGroup common stock, provided that no person shall be a Related Person if such person would have been a Related Person on the date of approval of this provision by BancGroup's Board of Directors, i.e., April 20, 1994. An effect of this provision may be to exclude Robert E. Lowder, the current Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of BancGroup, from the definition of Related Person. A Continuing Director is a director who was a member of the Board of Directors immediately prior to the time a person became a Related Person. This provision may not be amended without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding shares of Voting Stock, plus the affirmative vote of the outstanding shares of at least 67% of the outstanding Voting Stock, excluding shares held by a Related Person. This provision may have the effect of giving the incumbent Board of Directors a veto over a merger or other Business Combination that could be desired by a majority of BancGroup's shareholders. As of February 20, 2007, the Board of Directors of BancGroup owned approximately 5.04% of the outstanding shares of BancGroup common stock.

*Board Evaluation of Mergers.* The BancGroup Certificate permits the Board of Directors to consider certain factors such as the character and financial stability of the other party, the projected social, legal, and economic effects of a proposed transaction upon the employees, suppliers, regulatory agencies and customers and communities of BancGroup, and other factors when considering whether BancGroup should undertake a merger, sale of assets, or other similar transaction with another party. This provision may not be amended except by the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of BancGroup common stock. This provision may give greater latitude to the Board of Directors in terms of the factors which the board may consider in recommending or rejecting a merger or other Business Combination of BancGroup.

*Director Authority.* The BancGroup Certificate prohibits shareholders from calling special shareholders' meetings and acting by written consent. It also provides that only BancGroup's Board of Directors has the authority to undertake certain actions with respect to governing BancGroup such as appointing committees, electing officers, and establishing compensation of officers, and it allows the Board of Directors to act by majority vote.

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*Bylaw Provisions.* The BancGroup Bylaws provide that shareholders wishing to propose nominees for the Board of Directors or other business to be taken up at an annual meeting of BancGroup shareholders must comply with certain advance written notice provisions. These bylaw provisions are intended to provide for the more orderly conduct of shareholders' meetings but could make it more difficult for shareholders to nominate directors or introduce business at shareholders' meetings.

*Delaware Business Combination Statute.* Subject to some exceptions, Delaware law prohibits BancGroup from entering into certain business combinations (as defined) involving persons beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding BancGroup common stock (or one who is an affiliate of BancGroup and has over the past three years beneficially owned 15% or more of such stock) (either, for the purpose of this paragraph, an Interested Shareholder), unless the Board of Directors has approved either (i) the business combination or (ii) prior to the stock acquisition by which such person's beneficial ownership interest reached 15% (a Stock Acquisition), the Stock Acquisition. The prohibition lasts for three years from the date of the Stock Acquisition. Notwithstanding the preceding, Delaware law allows BancGroup to enter into a business combination with an Interested Shareholder if (i) the business combination is approved by BancGroup's Board of Directors and authorized by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock of BancGroup which is not owned by the Interested Shareholder or (ii) upon consummation of the transaction which resulted in the shareholder becoming an Interested Shareholder, such shareholder owned at least 85% of the outstanding BancGroup common stock (excluding BancGroup common stock held by officers and directors of BancGroup or by certain BancGroup stock plans). These provisions of Delaware law apply simultaneously with the provisions of the BancGroup Certificate relating to business combinations with a related person, described above at Business Combinations, but they are generally less restrictive than the BancGroup Certificate.

*Control Acquisitions.* As it relates to BancGroup, the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978 prohibits a person or group of persons from acquiring control of a bank holding company unless the Federal Reserve has been given 60 days' prior written notice of such proposed acquisition and within that time period the Federal Reserve has not issued a notice disapproving the proposed acquisition or extending for up to another 30 days the period during which such a disapproval may be issued. An acquisition may be made prior to the expiration of the disapproval period if the Federal Reserve issues written notice of its intent not to disapprove the action. Under a rebuttable presumption established by the Federal Reserve, the acquisition of more than 10% of a class of voting stock of a bank holding company with a class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, such as BancGroup, would, under the circumstances set forth in the presumption, constitute the acquisition of control. The receipt of revocable proxies, provided the proxies terminate within a reasonable time after the meeting to which they relate, is not included in determining percentages for change in control purposes.

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### **COMPARATIVE RIGHTS OF SHAREHOLDERS**

If the Merger is consummated, shareholders of Commercial, a Florida corporation, may become holders of BancGroup common stock. BancGroup is a Delaware corporation. The rights of the holders of the Commercial common stock who become holders of BancGroup common stock following the Merger, will be governed by the BancGroup Certificate and the BancGroup Bylaws, as well as the laws of Delaware.

The following summary compares the rights of the holders of Commercial common stock with the rights of the holders of the BancGroup common stock. For a more detailed description of the rights of the holders of BancGroup common stock, including certain features of the BancGroup Certificate and the Delaware General Corporation Law ( "DGCL" ) that might limit the circumstances under which a change in control of BancGroup could occur, see "BancGroup Capital Stock and Long Term Debt."

The following information is qualified in its entirety by the BancGroup Certificate and the BancGroup Bylaws, and the Commercial Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws and the Florida Business Corporation Act ( "FBCA" ).

#### **Director Elections**

*Commercial.* Commercial's directors are elected to terms of one year and are elected annually. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors.

*BancGroup.* BancGroup's directors are elected to terms of three years with approximately one-third of the Board to be elected annually. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors. See "BancGroup Capital Stock and Long Term Debt - Changes in Control - Classified Board."

#### **Removal of Directors**

*Commercial.* Under Commercial's Bylaws, any director, or the entire board of directors, may be removed from office at any time, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 51% of the outstanding voting stock of Commercial, voting together as a single class.

*BancGroup.* The BancGroup Certificate provides that a director may be removed from office, but only for cause and by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the voting shares then entitled to vote at an election of directors.

#### **Voting**

*Commercial.* Each share of Commercial common stock is entitled to one vote per share on all matters properly presented at meetings of shareholders of Commercial, and shareholders of Commercial do not have the right to cumulate votes in an election of directors.

*BancGroup.* Each shareholder of BancGroup is entitled to one vote for each share of BancGroup common stock held, and such holders are not entitled to cumulative voting rights in the election of directors.

#### **Preemptive Rights**

*Commercial.* Holders of Commercial common stock do not have preemptive rights with respect to any shares of Commercial common stock that may be issued.

*BancGroup.* The holders of BancGroup common stock have no preemptive rights to acquire any additional shares of BancGroup common stock or any other shares of BancGroup capital stock.



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### **Directors Liability**

*Commercial.* Commercial's Bylaws provide that no director of Commercial will ever have any liability by reason of being or having been a director of Commercial if such director performs his duties as a director in good faith, in a manner the director reasonably believes to be in the best interests of Commercial and with such care as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances.

*BancGroup.* The BancGroup Certificate provides that a director of BancGroup will have no personal liability to BancGroup or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director except (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its shareholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) for the payment of certain unlawful dividends and the making of certain stock purchases or redemptions, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. This provision would absolve directors of personal liability for negligence in the performance of duties, including gross negligence. It would not permit a director to be exculpated, however, for liability for actions involving conflicts of interest or breaches of the traditional duty of loyalty to BancGroup and its shareholders, and it would not affect the availability of injunctive or other equitable relief as a remedy.

### **Indemnification**

*Commercial.* The Florida Business Corporation Act permits a corporation to indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents for expenses incurred by them by reason of their position with the corporation if the person has acted in good faith and with the reasonable belief that his or her conduct was in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, with no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The Florida Business Corporation Act does not permit a corporation to indemnify persons in actions brought by or in the right of the corporation if the person is adjudged to be liable to the corporation (although it does permit indemnification in such situations if, any only to the extent, approved by the court in which such proceeding was brought or other court of competent jurisdiction). To the extent that a present or former director or officer of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, that person shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection therewith.

Commercial's Bylaws generally provide that Commercial shall indemnify persons against all liabilities incurred by such persons in connection with any brought or threatened proceeding in which such person is involved by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of Commercial to the fullest extent authorized by the Florida Business Corporation Act, provided that except with respect to proceedings to enforce rights to indemnification, Commercial shall indemnify any such person in connection with a proceeding initiated by such person only if the proceeding was authorized by the board of directors of Commercial.

Commercial's Bylaws further provide that the right to indemnification shall include the right to be paid by Commercial for expenses the indemnified person incurs in defending the proceeding in advance of its final disposition, provided that if the Florida Business Corporation Act requires, an advancement of expenses shall be made only upon delivery to Commercial of an undertaking to repay all amounts so advanced if it is ultimately determined by final judicial decision from which there is no further right to appeal that the indemnified party is not entitled to be indemnified for such expenses under Commercial's Bylaws or otherwise.

Commercial maintains an officers and directors insurance policy. Commercial maintains separate indemnification agreements with each of its directors pursuant to which directors of Commercial would be entitled to indemnification against certain liabilities, including reimbursement of certain expenses that extends beyond the minimum indemnification provided by the FBCA.

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*BancGroup.* The BancGroup Certificate provides that directors, officers, employees and agents of BancGroup shall be indemnified to the full extent permitted under the DGCL. Section 145 of the DGCL contains detailed and comprehensive provisions providing for indemnification of directors and officers of Delaware corporations against expenses, judgments, fines and settlements in connection with litigation. Under the DGCL, other than an action brought by or in the right of BancGroup, such indemnification is available if it is determined that the proposed indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of BancGroup and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. In actions brought by or in the right of BancGroup, such indemnification is limited to expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred in the defense or settlement of such action if the indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of BancGroup and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person has been adjudged to be liable to BancGroup unless and only to the extent that the Delaware Court of Chancery or the court in which the action was brought determines upon application that in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court deems proper.

To the extent that the proposed indemnitee has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding (or any claim, issue or matter therein), he or she must be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith.

BancGroup maintains an officers' and directors' insurance policy and a separate indemnification agreement pursuant to which officers and directors of BancGroup would be entitled to indemnification against certain liabilities, including reimbursement of certain expenses that extends beyond the minimum indemnification provided by Section 145 of the DGCL.

## **Special Meetings of Shareholders; Action Without a Meeting**

*Commercial.* Under the Bylaws of Commercial special meetings of the shareholders of Commercial may be called only by the board of directors of Commercial acting on its own initiative and shall be called by the Board of Directors upon request of the Chairman of the Board, the President of Commercial or the holders of not less than one-tenth of all the shares of Commercial entitled to vote at the special meeting.

The Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of Commercial provide that any action required or permitted to be taken by the shareholders of Commercial may be effected by consent in writing signed by the holders of outstanding stock having not less than the minimum number of votes required to authorize or take such action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and voted.

*BancGroup.* Under the BancGroup Certificate, a special meeting of BancGroup's shareholders may only be called by a majority of the BancGroup Board of Directors or by the chairman of the Board of Directors of BancGroup. Holders of BancGroup common stock may not call special meetings or act by written consent.

## **Mergers, Share Exchanges and Sales of Assets**

*Commercial.* The Florida Business Corporation Act generally requires the approval of the Commercial board of directors and the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding Commercial common stock for mergers and consolidations in which Commercial is a participating corporation and for sales of all or substantially all of Commercial's assets.

*BancGroup.* The DGCL provides that mergers and sales of substantially all of the assets of Delaware corporations must be approved by a majority of the outstanding stock of the corporation entitled to vote thereon. The DGCL also provides, however, that the shareholders of the corporation surviving a merger need not approve the transaction if: (i) the agreement of merger does not amend in any respect the certificate of incorporation of

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such corporation; (ii) each share of stock of such corporation outstanding immediately prior to the effective date of the Merger is to be an identical outstanding or treasury share of the surviving corporation after the effective date of the Merger; and (iii) either no shares of common stock of the surviving corporation and no shares, securities or obligations convertible into such common stock are to be issued or delivered under the plan of merger, or the authorized unissued shares or the treasury shares of common stock of the surviving corporation to be issued or delivered under the plan of merger plus those initially issuable upon conversion of any other shares, securities or obligations to be issued or delivered under such plan do not exceed 20% of the shares of common stock of such corporation outstanding immediately prior to the effective date of the Merger. See also BancGroup Capital Stock and Debentures Changes in Control for a description of the statutory provisions and the provisions of the BancGroup Certificate relating to changes of control of BancGroup.

**Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws**

*Commercial.* Under the FBCA, a Florida corporation’s Articles of Incorporation may be amended by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote thereon, and a majority of the outstanding shares of each class entitled to vote as a class, unless the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws or the Board of Directors require the vote of a larger portion of the stock or unless the amendment would create dissenter’s rights. In latter case a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on the amendment is required. Commercial’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws do not have any super-majority shareholder approval provisions.

As is permitted by the FBCA, the Bylaws of Commercial give the Board of Directors the power to adopt, amend or repeal Commercial’s Bylaws. The shareholders entitled to vote have concurrent power to adopt, amend or repeal the Commercial’s Bylaws.

*BancGroup.* Under the DGCL, a Delaware corporation’s Certificate of Incorporation may be amended by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote thereon, and a majority of the outstanding stock of each class entitled to vote as a class, unless the certificate requires the vote of a larger portion of the stock. The BancGroup Certificate of Incorporation requires super-majority Shareholder approval to amend or repeal any provision of, or adopt any provision inconsistent with, certain provisions in the BancGroup Certificate of Incorporation governing (i) the election or removal of directors, (ii) business combinations between BancGroup and a Related Person, and (iii) board of directors evaluation of business combination procedures. See BancGroup Capital Stock and Debentures Changes in Control.

As is permitted by the DGCL, the Certificate of Incorporation gives the Board of Directors the power to adopt, amend or repeal the BancGroup Bylaws. The shareholders entitled to vote have concurrent power to adopt, amend or repeal the BancGroup Bylaws.

**Rights of Dissenting Shareholders**

*Commercial.* Under the FBCA, a shareholder has the right, in certain circumstances, to dissent from certain corporate transactions and receive the fair value of his or her shares in cash in lieu of the consideration he or she otherwise would have received in the transaction. For this purpose, fair value may be determined by all generally accepted techniques of valuation used in the financial community, excluding any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the transaction, unless exclusion would be inequitable to the corporation and its remaining shareholders. Appraisal rights are not available, however, to shareholders of a corporation (i) if the shares are listed on a national securities exchange or quoted on the Nasdaq NMS (as is Commercial common stock), or held of record by more than 2,000 shareholders with a market value of at least \$10 million, and (ii) shareholders are permitted by the terms of the merger or consolidation to accept in exchange for their shares (a) shares of stock of the surviving or resulting corporation, (b) shares of stock of another corporation listed on a national securities exchange, or held of record by more than 2,000 shareholders with a market value of at least \$10 million, (c) cash in lieu of fractional shares of such stock, or (d) any combination thereof. Shareholders are not permitted appraisal rights in a merger if such corporation is the surviving corporation and no vote of its shareholders is required.

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*BancGroup.* Under the DGCL, a shareholder has the right, in certain circumstances, to dissent from certain corporate transactions and receive the fair value of his or her shares in cash in lieu of the consideration he or she otherwise would have received in the transaction. For this purpose, fair value may be determined by all generally accepted techniques of valuation used in the financial community, excluding any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the transaction, but including elements of future value that are known or susceptible of proof. Such fair value is determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery, if a petition for appraisal is timely filed. Appraisal rights are not available, however, to shareholders of a corporation (i) if the shares are listed on a national securities exchange (as is BancGroup common stock) or quoted on the Nasdaq NMS, or held of record by more than 2,000 shareholders (as is BancGroup common stock), and (ii) shareholders are permitted by the terms of the merger or consolidation to accept in exchange for their shares (a) shares of stock of the surviving or resulting corporation, (b) shares of stock of another corporation listed on a national securities exchange or held of record by more than 2,000 shareholders, (c) cash in lieu of fractional shares of such stock, or (d) any combination thereof. Shareholders are not permitted appraisal rights in a merger if such corporation is the surviving corporation and no vote of its shareholders is required.

### **Preferred Stock**

*Commercial.* The Commercial articles of incorporation authorizes up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors of Commercial. Currently, no shares of preferred stock are issued and outstanding.

*BancGroup.* The BancGroup Certificate authorizes the issuance of 1,000,000 shares of preference stock and 50,000,000 of preferred stock from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors of BancGroup. Currently, no shares either of preference stock or preferred stock are issued and outstanding. See BancGroup Capital Stock and Long Term Debt Preference Stock and Preferred Stock.

### **Control Share Acquisitions**

*Commercial.* Section 607.0602 of the FBCA generally provides that certain shares of stock of a Florida corporation such as Commercial which has not opted out of coverage by this section in the prescribed manner shall not have any voting rights. Shares of stock whose voting rights may be restricted would be those that, upon acquisition by a person or group of persons, when added to all other shares of the same class of stock owned by such person or group of persons, would entitle the holder thereof to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power within any of the following ranges of voting power: (a) one-fifth or more but less than one-third of all voting power; (b) one-third or more but less than a majority of all voting power; and (c) a majority of all voting power. Control shares acquired in a control-share acquisition have the same voting rights as were accorded the shares before the control share acquisition only to the extent granted by resolution approved by the shareholders of the corporation.

*BancGroup.* For information with respect to provisions under BancGroup's governing documents and the DGCL regarding provisions which may have the effect of presenting, discouraging or delaying any change in control of BancGroup, see BancGroup Capital Stock and Long Term Debt Change in Control.

### **Transactions with Interested Persons**

*Commercial.* For Commercial information regarding transactions with interested persons, see Commercial Transactions with Related Persons at page 57 of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus.

*BancGroup.* For information with respect to provisions under BancGroup's governing documents and the DGCL regarding provisions which may have the effect of presenting, discouraging or delaying any change in control of BancGroup, see BancGroup Capital Stock and Long Term Debt Change in Control.

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**Effect of the Merger on Commercial Shareholders**

As of March 23, 2007, Commercial had 170 shareholders of record and 6,221,782 outstanding shares of common stock. As of February 20, 2007, there were 152,810,673 shares of BancGroup Common Stock outstanding held by approximately 9,288 shareholders of record.

Assuming that 6,221,782 shares of Commercial common stock are outstanding on the Effective Date, an aggregate number of 6,288,355 shares of BancGroup common stock would be issued to the shareholders of Commercial pursuant to the Merger. These shares would represent approximately 3.95% of the total shares of BancGroup common stock outstanding after the Merger, not counting any shares of BancGroup common stock to be issued in other transactions.

The issuance of BancGroup common stock pursuant to the Merger will reduce the percentage interest of BancGroup common stock currently held by each principal shareholder and each director and officer of BancGroup. Based upon the foregoing assumption, the directors and executive officers of BancGroup who owned approximately 5.39% of BancGroup's outstanding shares as of February 20, 2007, would own approximately 5.18% after the Merger. See BancGroup Security Ownership of Management and Management Information.

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**BANCGROUP**

**General**

BancGroup is a Delaware corporation organized in 1974 as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Act of 1956, as amended. Through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Colonial Bank, BancGroup conducts a general commercial banking business in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Nevada and Texas. At December 31, 2006, BancGroup had assets of \$22.8 billion.

As of December 31, 2006, Colonial Bank had a total of 305 branches, with 92 branches in Alabama, 166 branches in Florida, 18 branches in Georgia, 15 branches in Nevada and 14 branches in Texas. Colonial Bank conducts a general commercial banking business in its respective service areas. Colonial Bank offers a variety of demand, savings and time deposit products as well as extensions of credit through personal, commercial and mortgage loans within each of its market areas. Colonial Bank also provides additional services to its markets through cash management services, electronic banking services, credit card and merchant services and financial planning services.

As of February 20, 2007, BancGroup had issued and outstanding 152,810,673 shares of BancGroup common stock with approximately 9,288 shareholders of record. Each such share is entitled to one vote. In addition, as of that date, 2,068,854 shares of BancGroup common stock were subject to issuance upon exercise of options pursuant to BancGroup's stock option plans. There are currently 400,000,000 shares of BancGroup common stock authorized.

**Security Ownership of Management and Management Information**

Certain information regarding the biographies of the directors and executive officers of BancGroup, voting securities of principal shareholders, security ownership of management, executive compensation and related party transactions is included in (i) BancGroup's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006, at item 10, and (ii) BancGroup's Proxy Statement for its 2007 Annual Meeting under the headings Voting Securities of Principal Shareholders, Election of Directors, Compensation Discussion and Analysis, Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation, and Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance, at pages 3-11 and 13-32. BancGroup hereby incorporates such information by reference.

**Table of Contents****COMMERCIAL****General**

Commercial is a Florida corporation and registered bank holding company under the Federal Reserve Act, as amended. Commercial's principal asset is all of the capital stock of Commercial Bank. At December 31, 2006, Commercial Bank had 14 banking offices located in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, Florida. At December 31, 2006, Commercial had total assets of \$1.04 billion and shareholders' equity of \$90.2 million.

Certain information relating to executive compensation, benefit plans, voting securities and the principal holders thereof, certain relationships and related transactions and other matters relating to Commercial is set forth herein or incorporated by reference from Commercial's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, which is incorporated herein by reference. Shareholders desiring copies of such documents may contact Commercial at its address or telephone number indicated under "Where You Can Find More Information and Information Incorporated by Reference" beginning on page 59.

**Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners**

Persons and groups owning in excess of five percent of Commercial's Common Stock and directors and executive officers of Commercial are required to file certain reports regarding such ownership with Commercial and with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). The following table sets forth information regarding persons known to be beneficial owners of more than five percent of Commercial's outstanding Common Stock and of the beneficial ownership of the directors and executive officers of Commercial as of March 23, 2007.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Current Beneficial Ownership	
	Number of Shares (1)(7)	Percent of Class*
<b>(a) Certain Beneficial Owners:</b>		
MFC Global Investment Management (US) LLC	383,709	6.17%
101 Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02199		
Caxton Associates LLC	336,387	5.41%
731 Alexander Road Princeton, NJ 08540		
<b>(b) Management and Directors:</b>		
<b>Directors:</b>		
Cromwell A. Anderson	226,088(2)	3.60%
1550 S.W. 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami, Florida 33144		
Joseph W. Armaly	311,268(3)	4.95%
1550 S.W. 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue		

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Miami, Florida 33144		
Robert Namoff	192,899(2)	3.07%
1550 S.W. 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue		
Miami, Florida 33144		
Sherman Simon	249,488(2)	3.97%
1550 S.W. 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue		
Miami, Florida 33144		
Michael W. Sontag	72,097(4)	1.15%
1550 S.W. 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue		
Miami, Florida 33144		



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Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Current Beneficial Ownership	
	Number of Shares (1)(7)	Percent of Class*
Bruce P. Steinberger 1550 S.W. 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami, Florida 33144	59,824(6)	**
Martin Yelen 1550 S.W. 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami, Florida 33144	104,609(2)	1.67%
<b>Executive Officers Who Are Not Also Directors:</b>		
Barbara E. Reed 1550 S.W. 57 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami, Florida 33144	47,463(5)	**
All directors and the executive officers as a group (8 persons)	1,263,736	19.25%

\* Percentages of shares beneficially owned are based upon 6,221,782 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of March 23, 2007 plus, for each person named above, any shares of Common Stock that may be acquired by such person within 60 days of such date upon exercise of outstanding options or other rights. Options granted under the Outside Director Plan vest immediately.

\*\* Less than 1%.

- (1) In accordance with Rule 13d-3 promulgated pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, a person is deemed to be the beneficial owner of a security for purposes of the rule if he or she has or shares voting power or investment power with respect to such security or has the right to acquire such ownership within 60 days. As used herein, "voting power" is the power to vote or direct the voting of shares, and "investment power" is the power to dispose or direct the disposition of shares, irrespective of any economic interest therein.
- (2) Includes options granted to purchase 57,520 shares of Common Stock.
- (3) Includes options granted to purchase 63,614 shares of Common Stock. Does not include 45,196 shares held of record by Mr. Armaly's wife. Mr. Armaly disclaims beneficial ownership of all such shares. Inclusion of such shares would result in Mr. Armaly owning 356,464 shares or 5.43% and all directors and executive officers owning as a group 1,308,932 shares or 19.94% of the total issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock.
- (4) Includes options granted to purchase 22,063 shares of Common Stock.
- (5) Includes options granted to purchase 9,625 shares of Common Stock.
- (6) Includes options granted to purchase 18,704 shares of Common Stock.
- (7) The number of shares underlying the stock options described in this table and the foregoing footnotes, and the exercise prices for such shares, give effect to the dilutive adjustments, which were made with respect to such options as a result of the 5% stock dividends which were declared by the Company in each of December, 1997, December, 1998 and December, 1999 and five-for-four stock splits declared in December, 2002 and December, 2003.

**(c) Change in Control:**

On January 23, 2007 Commercial Bankshares, Inc. entered into an agreement and Plan of Merger with Colonial BancGroup, Inc. whereby Commercial Bankshares, Inc. will merge with and into Colonial with Colonial remaining as the surviving corporation. If all conditions of the Merger Agreement are met, the merger is expected to close in the second quarter, 2007.

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### **Transactions with Related Persons**

Federal regulations generally require that loans or extensions of credit to executive officers and directors must be made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with the general public and must not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features. In addition, loans made to a director or executive officer in excess of the greater of \$25,000 or 5% of the Bank's capital and surplus (up to a maximum of \$500,000) must be approved in advance by a majority of the disinterested members of the board of directors.

### **Interested Transactions**

In addition to a discussion of certain relationships and related transactions which is incorporated into this Proxy Statement-Prospectus by reference to Commercial's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, shareholders of Commercial are encouraged to read "Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger" on page 28 for a discussion of interests of management and other shareholders held in this merger.

The Bank currently makes loans to its executive officers and directors on the same terms and conditions offered to the general public. All loans made by the Bank to its executive officers and directors are made in the ordinary course of business, on substantially the same terms, including collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons and do not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING**

Approval of the Agreement by Commercial shareholders requires the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of Commercial common stock. In the event there are an insufficient number of shares of Commercial common stock present in person or by proxy at the Special Meeting to approve the Agreement, the Commercial Board of Directors intends to adjourn the Special Meeting to a later date provided a majority of the shares present and voting on the motion have voted in favor of such adjournment. The place and date to which the Special Meeting would be adjourned would be announced at the Special Meeting. Proxies voted against the Agreement and abstentions will not be voted to adjourn the Special Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be voted on this matter but will not count as "no" votes. However, an abstention or a broker non-vote has the same effect as a "no" vote. If it is necessary to adjourn the Special Meeting and the adjournment is for a period of not more than 30 days from the original date of the Special Meeting, no notice of the time and place of the adjourned meeting need be given the shareholders, other than an announcement made at the Special Meeting.

The effect of any such adjournment would be to permit Commercial to solicit additional proxies for approval of the Agreement. Such an adjournment would not invalidate any proxies previously filed as long as the record date for the adjourned meeting remained the same, including proxies filed by shareholders voting against the Agreement.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

The Board of Directors of Commercial is not aware of any business to come before the Special Meeting other than the matter described above in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. If, however, any other matters not now known should properly come before the Special Meeting, the proxy holders named in the accompanying proxy will vote such proxy on such matters as determined by a majority of the Board of Directors of Commercial.

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**SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**Date for Submission of Shareholder Proposals**

If the merger is not completed, you will continue to be entitled to attend and participate in our shareholder meetings, and we will hold an annual meeting in 2007, in which case shareholder proposals will be eligible for consideration for inclusion in the proxy statement and form of proxy for our 2007 annual meeting of shareholders in accordance with Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act. To be eligible for inclusion in the proxy statement and form of proxy for the 2007 annual meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8, proposals of shareholders must have been received by us no later than 120 calendar days in advance of the annual meeting date which as of this date has not been scheduled pending the vote in the Merger Agreement.

In order to be eligible for inclusion in BancGroup's proxy solicitation materials for its 2008 annual meeting of shareholders, any shareholder proposal to take action at such meeting must be received at BancGroup's corporate headquarters at 100 Colonial Bank Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36117, no later than 120 calendar days in advance of the date of March 19, 2008 (November 21, 2007), for inclusion in the proxy or information statement relating to the 2008 annual meeting.

**Shareholder Communication with Commercial**

The Board of Directors has developed the following procedure for shareholders to send communications to the board of directors or to individual members of the Board. All communications from shareholders should be sent to Commercial, Inc., 1550 SW 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Miami, Florida 33144.

Communications regarding financial or accounting policies should be made to the attention of Martin Yelen, Chairman of the Audit Committee. Other communications to the Board of Directors should be made to the attention of Bruce Steinberger, President and Corporate Secretary of Commercial. Communications to individual members of the Board should also be sent directly to the individual director at Commercial's address.

All communications sent to the Chairman of the Audit Committee and those sent to an individual director will go directly to such individuals and will not be screened or reviewed by Commercial or Bank personnel. Any communication sent to the Board to the attention of Mr. Steinberger will be reviewed by him to ensure that the communication relates to the business of Commercial before being reviewed by the Board of Directors.

**Other Matters that may Properly Come Before the Meeting**

The Board of Directors knows of no business that will be presented for consideration at the Special Meeting other than as stated in the Notice of Special Meeting of Shareholders. If, however, other matters are properly brought before the Special Meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy card to vote the shares represented thereby on such matters in accordance with their best judgment.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters regarding the shares of BancGroup common stock offered hereby are being passed upon by the law firm of Miller, Hamilton, Snider & Odom, L.L.C., Mobile, Alabama, of which John C. H. Miller, Jr., a director of BancGroup, is a member. Such firm received fees for legal services performed in 2006 of approximately \$4,368,000. John C. H. Miller, Jr. beneficially owned 41,220 shares of BancGroup common stock as of February 20, 2007. In addition to his directors fees, Mr. Miller also received employee-related compensation from BancGroup in 2006 of \$41,000 and the personal use of the company aircraft valued at \$23,152 (using the incremental cost methodology).

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**EXPERTS**

The financial statements of BancGroup and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of BancGroup for the year ended December 31, 2006 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The consolidated financial statements of Commercial incorporated in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of Crowe Chizek & Company LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements of Commercial for the year ended December 31, 2004 incorporated in this Proxy-Statement-Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Commercial for the year ended December 31, 2006 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered certified public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AND RETURN IT IN THE ACCOMPANYING ENVELOPE AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. YOU MAY REVOKE THE PROXY BY GIVING WRITTEN NOTICE OF REVOCATION TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCIAL PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL MEETING, BY EXECUTING A LATER DATED PROXY AND DELIVERING IT TO COMMERCIAL PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL MEETING OR BY ATTENDING THE SPECIAL MEETING AND VOTING IN PERSON.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED CONSIDERATION ELECTION FORM AND RETURN IT IN THE ACCOMPANYING ENVELOPE MARKED FOR SUCH PURPOSE. YOU MAY CHANGE YOUR ELECTION AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO 5:00 P.M. ON THE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE SPECIAL MEETING.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION AND**

**INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

BancGroup and Commercial file reports, proxy statements, and other information with the SEC. You can read and copy these reports, proxy statements, and other information concerning BancGroup and Commercial at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. You can review BancGroup's and Commercial's electronically filed reports, BancGroup's proxy and information statements on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. BancGroup's electronically filed reports, proxy and information statements are also available on its Internet website at <http://www.colonialbank.com>. BancGroup's common stock is quoted on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CNB". BancGroup's reports, proxy statements and other information are also available for inspection at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York City, New York 10005.

BancGroup has filed a registration statement on Form S-4 with the SEC covering the common stock. This Proxy Statement-Prospectus, which forms a part of the registration statement, does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For further information about BancGroup and its common stock you should refer to the registration statement and its exhibits. You can obtain the full registration statement from the SEC as indicated above.

The SEC allows Commercial and BancGroup to incorporate by reference the information they file with the SEC. This permits Commercial and BancGroup to disclose important information to you by referring to these

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filed documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, and information that BancGroup files later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. BancGroup incorporates by reference:

its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006;

its description of the current management and Board of Directors contained in BancGroup's Proxy Statement for its 2007 Annual Meeting, which was filed on or around March 19, 2007;

its Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 23, 2007, February 26, 2007 and March 27, 2007;

a description of its common stock, \$2.50 par value per share, contained in BancGroup's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on November 22, 1994 and effective February 22, 1995; and

any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus and prior to the Special Meeting.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost by writing or telephoning BancGroup at the following address:

David B. Byrne, Jr.

Secretary

The Colonial BancGroup, Inc.

100 Colonial Bank Boulevard

Montgomery, Alabama 36117

(334) 676-5000

Commercial incorporates by reference:

its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006;

its Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 25, 2007.

any future filings made with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus and prior to the Special Meeting.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost by writing or telephoning at the following address:

Bruce P. Steinberger

President and Corporate Secretary

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Commercial Bankshares, Inc.

1550 S. W. 57th Avenue

Miami, Florida 33144

(305) 267-1200

With respect to the offering of BancGroup common stock, you should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. BancGroup has not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. BancGroup is not making an offer of the common stock in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus or a date specifically referenced herein. With respect to your consideration of the Merger Agreement, you may also review the selected financial data that Commercial provides to its shareholders on an annual basis following the end of each calendar year as well as to its SEC filings.

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**APPENDIX A**

**AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER**

**by and between**

**THE COLONIAL BANCGROUP, INC.**

**and**

**COMMERCIAL BANKSHARES, INC.**

**dated as of**

**January 23, 2007**

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**AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER**

**THIS AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER** is made and entered into as of this the 23rd day of January, 2007, by and between **COMMERCIAL BANKSHARES, INC.** ( Acquired Corporation ), a Florida corporation, and **THE COLONIAL BANCGROUP, INC.** ( BancGroup ), a Delaware corporation.

**WITNESSETH**

**WHEREAS**, Acquired Corporation operates as a bank holding company for its wholly owned subsidiary, Commercial Bank of Florida (referred to herein as the Bank ), with its principal office in Miami, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, BancGroup is a bank holding company with a Subsidiary bank, Colonial Bank, N.A., operating in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, and Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Acquired Corporation wishes to merge with BancGroup; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of BancGroup and Acquired Corporation that such Merger shall qualify for federal income tax purposes as a reorganization within the meaning of section 368(a) of the Code, as defined herein;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**

**NAME**

**1.1 Name.** The name of the corporation resulting from the Merger shall be The Colonial BancGroup, Inc.

**ARTICLE 2**

**MERGER TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**2.1 Applicable Law.** At the Effective Time, Acquired Corporation shall be merged with and into BancGroup (herein referred to as the Resulting Corporation whenever reference is made to it as of the time of merger or thereafter). The Merger shall be undertaken pursuant to the provisions of and with the effect provided in the Delaware General Corporation Law (the DGCL ), and the applicable provisions of the Florida Business Corporation Act (the FBCA ). The offices and facilities of Acquired Corporation and of BancGroup shall become the offices and facilities of the Resulting Corporation.

**2.2 Corporate Existence.** As of the Effective Time, the corporate existence of Acquired Corporation and of BancGroup shall, as provided in the DGCL and the FBCA, be merged into and continued in the Resulting Corporation, and the Resulting Corporation shall be deemed to be the same corporation as Acquired Corporation and BancGroup. All rights, franchises and interests of Acquired Corporation and BancGroup, respectively, in and to every type of property (real, personal and mixed) and choses in action shall be transferred to and vested in the Resulting Corporation by virtue of the Merger without any deed or other transfer. The Resulting Corporation as of the Effective Time, and without any order or other action on the part of any court or otherwise, shall hold and enjoy all rights of property, franchises and interests, including appointments, designations and nominations and all other rights and interests as trustee, executor, administrator, transfer agent and registrar of stocks and bonds, guardian of estates, assignee, and receiver and in every other fiduciary capacity and in every agency, and capacity, in the same manner and to the same extent as such rights, franchises and interests were held or enjoyed by Acquired Corporation and BancGroup, respectively, immediately prior to the Effective Time.

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**2.3 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.** At the Effective Time, the certificate of incorporation and bylaws of the Resulting Corporation shall be the restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws of BancGroup as they exist immediately before the Effective Time.

**2.4 Resulting Corporation's Officers and Board.** The board of directors and the officers of the Resulting Corporation as of the Effective Time shall consist of those persons serving in such capacities of BancGroup as of the Effective Time.

**2.5 Shareholder Approval.** This Agreement shall be submitted to the shareholders of Acquired Corporation at the Shareholders Meeting to be held as promptly as practicable consistent with the satisfaction of the conditions set forth in this Agreement. Upon approval by the requisite vote of the shareholders of Acquired Corporation as required by applicable Law, and the satisfaction of such other conditions as set forth herein, the Merger shall become effective as soon as practicable thereafter in the manner provided in section 2.7.

**2.6 Further Acts.** If, at any time after the Effective Time, the Resulting Corporation shall consider or be advised that any further assignments or assurances in law or any other acts are necessary or desirable (i) to vest, perfect, confirm or record, in the Resulting Corporation, title to and possession of any property or right of Acquired Corporation or BancGroup, acquired as a result of the Merger, or (ii) otherwise to carry out the purposes of the Merger and this Agreement, BancGroup and its officers and directors shall execute and deliver all such proper instruments, deeds, assignments and assurances in law and do all acts necessary or proper to vest, perfect or confirm title to, and possession of, such property or rights in the Resulting Corporation and otherwise to carry out the purposes of this Agreement; and the proper officers and directors of the Resulting Corporation are fully authorized in the name of Acquired Corporation or BancGroup, or otherwise, to take any and all such action as may be necessary to effect the terms of this Agreement and Plan of Merger.

**2.7 Effective Time and Closing.** The Merger shall become effective as of the date and time the Certificate of Merger is accepted for filing by the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware (such time being herein called the Effective Time). Assuming all other conditions stated in this Agreement have been or will be satisfied or waived as of the Closing, the Closing shall take place at the offices of Akerman Senterfitt & Eidson, P.A., One Southeast Third Avenue, Miami, Florida on a date specified by BancGroup and agreeable to Acquired Corporation that shall be as soon as reasonably practicable after the later to occur of the Shareholder Meeting or all required regulatory approvals (including waiting periods) under Section 8.2, or at such other place and time that the Parties may mutually agree.

**2.8 Merger of Subsidiary Bank.** BancGroup and Acquired Corporation anticipate the possibility that after the Effective Time, the Bank will merge with and into Colonial Bank, N.A., BancGroup's Subsidiary bank (the Bank Merger). The exact timing and structure of the Bank Merger have not been finalized at this time, and BancGroup in its discretion will determine if such Bank Merger shall proceed and will finalize such timing and structure at a later date. Acquired Corporation will reasonably cooperate with BancGroup in consummating the Bank Merger, including the calling of any special meetings of the board of directors of the Bank and the filing of any regulatory applications, at BancGroup's sole cost and expense.

**ARTICLE 3**

**CONVERSION OF ACQUIRED CORPORATION STOCK**

**3.1 Conversion of Acquired Corporation Stock.**

(a)(i) At the Effective Time, and subject to sections 3.1(a)(ii), 3.1(a)(iii), 3.1(a)(iv), and 3.3, each share of common stock of Acquired Corporation outstanding and held by Acquired Corporation's shareholders (Acquired Corporation Stock), shall be converted into the right to receive shares of BancGroup Common Stock and/or cash (the Merger Consideration) as specified below. Each outstanding share of Acquired Corporation Stock at the Effective Time shall be converted into the right to receive either (A) 2.0214 shares

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(subject to section 3.3 hereof) of BancGroup Common Stock or (B) \$49.00 in cash in accordance with sections 3.1(a)(ii), (iii) and (iv) of this Agreement.

(ii) A holder of Acquired Corporation Stock may, prior to the Shareholders Meeting, file a written election form (an Election Form ) with the Acquired Corporation specifying whether such holder prefers to have the Merger Consideration paid to such holder in shares of BancGroup Common Stock only, cash only, or any proportion of cash and whole shares of BancGroup Common Stock that such holder desires to receive, subject to the limitation on cash and share consideration in sections 3.1(a)(iii) and (iv) of this Agreement.

(iii) Notwithstanding section 3.1(a)(ii) of this Agreement and notwithstanding any elections made pursuant to the Election Forms, the aggregate amount of cash to be distributed in the Merger for Acquired Corporation Stock shall be the amount of 50% of the number of shares of outstanding Acquired Corporation Stock at the time of the Closing times \$49.00 (the Cash Consideration ) (approximately \$148,480,658 assuming 6,060,435 shares of Acquired Corporation Stock are outstanding at the time of the Closing) even if the aggregate amount of cash elected by stockholders (the Aggregate Cash Amount ) is less than or exceeds the Cash Consideration. Notwithstanding section 3.1(a)(ii) of this Agreement and notwithstanding any elections made pursuant to the Election Forms, the aggregate number of shares of BancGroup Common Stock to be distributed in the Merger shall be 50% of the number of shares of the outstanding Acquired Corporation Stock at the time of the Closing times 2.0214 (the Stock Consideration ) (approximately 6,125,281 shares of BancGroup Common Stock assuming 6,060,435 shares of Acquired Corporation Stock are outstanding at the time of the Closing), even if the aggregate number of shares of BancGroup Common Stock elected by stockholders (the Aggregate Stock Amount ) is less than or exceeds the Stock Consideration. If the aggregate of all Acquired Corporation shareholders Cash Elections (or Stock Elections) exceeds the Cash Consideration (or the Stock Consideration), the Merger Consideration distributable to each holder of Acquired Corporation Stock shall be adjusted by taking the following steps: (1) determine the amount by which the Aggregate Cash Amount (or Aggregate Stock Amount) exceeds the Cash Consideration (or Stock Consideration); (2) reduce the amount of cash (or BancGroup Common Stock) that each such Shareholder who elects, or is deemed to elect, cash (or BancGroup Common Stock) will receive on a pro rata basis until the Aggregate Cash Amount (or the Aggregate Stock Amount) is equal to the Cash Consideration (or the Stock Consideration) (the aggregate amount of this reduction shall be referred to as the Excess Election ); (3) determine the number of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock that each Acquired Corporation Shareholder s pro rata portion of the Excess Election represents (which will be the pro rata portion of the Excess Election divided by \$49.00 in the case of a Cash Excess Election (or the pro-rata portion of the Excess Election divided by 2.0214 in the case of a BancGroup Common Stock Excess Election)); (4) increase such Shareholder s stock (or cash) component of such Shareholder s Merger Consideration by 2.0214 shares of BancGroup Common Stock (or \$49.00) for each share of Acquired Corporation Stock determined in step (3) above.

(iv) Elections made shall apply to all shares of record of Acquired Corporation Stock held immediately prior to the Effective Time by a record holder making the election. If an Acquired Corporation shareholder does not submit an Election Form, then such holder shall be deemed to have elected to receive \$24.50 in cash and 1.0107 shares of BancGroup Common Stock for each share of Acquired Corporation Stock as his or her portion of the Merger Consideration. Interest will not be paid on any cash to be paid as part of the Merger Consideration.

(b) Promptly after the execution of this Agreement, the Acquired Corporation shall inform all holders of employee stock options to purchase Acquired Corporation Stock ( Employee Plan Options ) (whether or not such options are vested or exercisable) of their ability to exercise their options within (30) days of such notice, and after such thirty (30) day period, of their ability to exercise their Employee Plan Options for cash as described in subparagraph (c) of this Section 3.1; provided that the election or non-election by the option holders to so exchange their Employee Plan options for cash as described in this section shall not be a condition to the Closing.

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(c) Each holder of Employee Plan Options and each holder of Acquired Corporation Options granted under the outside director stock option plans of Acquired Corporation ( Outside Director Options ), in each case may, no later than five days prior to the Effective Date, may exercise his or her Acquired Corporation Options (in each case whether then or not vested or exercisable) through a cashless exercise with such exercised stock being exchanged for cash payable on or within five (5) business days after the Effective Time. As a result of this cashless exercise, the amount of cash to be received shall be determined by calculating the difference between (i) the number obtained by multiplying the number of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock issuable pursuant to his or her Acquired Corporation Options times \$49.00 less (ii) the number obtained by multiplying the number of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock issuable pursuant to his or her Acquired Corporation Options times the exercise price per share (as determined pursuant to the applicable stock option plan and stock option agreement of the Acquired Corporation). In the event that the exercise prices of all Acquired Corporation Options are not the same, the above calculation shall be made for each series of options. The amount of cash paid to option holders shall not be considered as part of the Cash Consideration.

**3.2 Fractional Shares.** No fractional shares of BancGroup Common Stock shall be issued, and each holder of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock having a fractional interest arising upon the conversion of such shares into shares of BancGroup Common Stock shall, at the time of surrender of the certificates previously representing Acquired Corporation Stock, be paid by BancGroup an amount in cash equal to \$49.00 per share.

**3.3 Adjustments.** In the event that prior to the Effective Time BancGroup Common Stock shall be changed into a different number of shares or a different class of shares by reason of any recapitalization or reclassification, stock dividend, combination, stock split, or reverse stock split of the BancGroup Common Stock, an appropriate and proportionate adjustment shall be made in the number of shares of BancGroup Common Stock into which the Acquired Corporation Stock shall be converted.

**3.4 BancGroup Stock.** The shares of Common Stock of BancGroup issued and outstanding immediately before the Effective Time shall continue to be issued and outstanding shares of the Resulting Corporation.

**3.5 [Reserved].**

**3.6 Election and Exchange Procedures.** Each holder of record of shares of the Acquired Corporation Stock ( Holder ) shall have the right, subject to the limitations set forth in this Article 3, to submit an election and exchange his or her Acquired Corporation stock certificates (the Acquired Corporation Stock Certificates ) in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) *The Election.* Each Holder may specify in a request made in accordance with the provisions of this Section 3.6 (herein called an Election ) (x) the number of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock owned by such Holder with respect to which such Holder desires to receive a portion of the Stock Consideration (a Stock Election ) and (y) the number of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock owned by such Holder with respect to which such Holder desires to receive a portion of the Cash Consideration (a Cash Election ).

(b) *Form of Election.* BancGroup shall prepare a form reasonably acceptable to the Acquired Corporation (the Form of Election ) which shall be mailed to the Acquired Corporation's stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting of the stockholders of the Acquired Corporation at which the stockholders of the Acquired Corporation consider and vote on this Agreement (the Acquired Corporation Stockholders Meeting ) so as to permit the Acquired Corporation's stockholders to exercise their right to make an Election prior to the Election Deadline (as defined in Section 3.6(d)).

(c) *Distribution of Forms of Election.* BancGroup shall make the Form of Election initially available at the time that the Proxy Statement (as defined herein) is made available to the stockholders of the Acquired Corporation, to such stockholders, and shall use all reasonable efforts to make available as promptly as possible a Form of Election to any stockholder of the Acquired Corporation who requests such Form of

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Election following the initial mailing of the Forms of Election and prior to the Election Deadline. In no event shall the Form of Election be made available for the first time less than twenty (20) calendar days prior to the Election Deadline.

(d) *Proper Election and Exchange Agent.* Any Election shall have been made properly only if the Person authorized to receive the Elections and to act as Exchange Agent under this Agreement, which Person shall be designated by BancGroup and not reasonably objected to by the Acquired Corporation (the Exchange Agent ), pursuant to an agreement entered into as soon as reasonably practicable after the execution of this Agreement and not reasonably objected to by the Acquired Corporation, shall have received, by 5:00 p.m. local time in the city in which the principal office of such Exchange Agent is located, on the date of the Election Deadline, a Form of Election properly completed and signed and accompanied by Acquired Corporation Stock Certificates to which such Form of Election relates or by an appropriate customary guarantee of delivery of such certificates, as set forth in such Form of Election from a member of any registered national securities exchange or a commercial bank or trust company in the United States; provided, that such certificates are in fact delivered to the Exchange Agent by the time required in such guarantee of delivery. Failure to deliver shares of Acquired Corporation Stock covered by such a guarantee of delivery within the time set forth on such guarantee shall be deemed to invalidate any otherwise properly made Election, unless otherwise determined by BancGroup, in its sole discretion. As used herein, Election Deadline means 5:00 p.m. on the date that is the day prior to the date of the Acquired Corporation Stockholder Meeting. The Acquired Corporation and BancGroup shall cooperate to issue a press release reasonably satisfactory to each of them announcing the date of the Election Deadline not more than thirty (30) business days before and at least five (5) Business Days prior to, the Election Deadline. If BancGroup shall determine in its reasonable discretion that any Election is not properly made with respect to any shares of Acquired Corporation Stock, such Election shall be deemed to be not in effect, and the shares of Acquired Corporation Stock covered by such Election shall, for purposes hereof, be treated as if no Election had been made, unless a proper Election is thereafter timely made.

(e) *Modification and Revocation of Form of Election.* Any Acquired Corporation stockholder may, at any time prior to the Election Deadline, change or revoke his or her Election by written notice received by the Exchange Agent prior to the Election Deadline accompanied by a properly completed and signed, revised Form of Election or by withdrawal prior to the Election Deadline of his or her Acquired Corporation Stock Certificate, or of the guarantee of delivery of such certificates, previously deposited with the Exchange Agent. All Elections shall be revoked automatically if the Exchange Agent is notified in writing by BancGroup or the Acquired Corporation that this Agreement has been terminated in accordance with Article 13.

(f) *Proper Designation and Taxes.* If any portion of the Merger Consideration is to be paid to a Person other than the Person in whose name an Acquired Corporation Stock Certificate so surrendered is registered, it shall be a condition to such payment that such Acquired Corporation Stock Certificate shall be properly endorsed or otherwise be in proper form for transfer and the Person requesting such payment shall pay to the Exchange Agent any transfer or other similar Taxes required as a result of such payment to a Person other than the registered holder of such Acquired Corporation Stock Certificate, or establish to the reasonable satisfaction of the Exchange Agent that such Tax has been paid or is not payable. The Exchange Agent (or, subsequent to the six month anniversary of the Effective Time, BancGroup) shall be entitled to deduct and withhold from the Merger Consideration (including cash in lieu of fractional shares of BancGroup Common Stock) and from payments made to holders of Acquired Corporation Employee Plan Options and Outside Directors Plan Options ( Acquired Corporation Options ) otherwise payable pursuant to this Agreement to any holder of Acquired Corporation Stock or of Acquired Corporation Options such amounts as the Exchange Agent or BancGroup, as the case may be, is required to deduct and withhold under the Code, or any provision of state, local or foreign Tax law, with respect to the making of such payment. To the extent the amounts are so withheld by the Exchange Agent or BancGroup, as the case may be, such withheld amounts shall be treated for all purposes of this Agreement as having been paid to the holder of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock or of Acquired Corporation Options in respect of whom such deduction and withholding was made by the Exchange Agent or BancGroup, as the case may be.

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(g) *Power of Determination.* BancGroup, in the exercise of its reasonable discretion, shall have the right to make all determinations, not inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement, governing (A) the issuance and delivery of BancGroup Stock Certificates into which shares of Acquired Corporation Stock are converted in the Merger and (B) the method of payment for shares of Acquired Corporation Stock converted into the right to receive the Cash Consideration and cash in lieu of fractional shares of BancGroup Common Stock where the holder of the applicable Acquired Corporation Stock Certificate has no right to receive whole shares of BancGroup Common Stock.

(h) *Exchange Fund.* BancGroup agrees to make available to the Exchange Agent from time to time as needed, certificates representing the BancGroup Common Stock, and agrees to deliver in escrow to the Exchange Agent, at least one (1) Business Day prior to the Closing, for the benefit of the holders of the shares of Acquired Corporation Stock and Acquired Corporation Options, and cash sufficient to pay the cash component of the Merger Consideration, the cash payable hereunder to the holders of Acquired Corporation Options, cash in lieu of fractional shares and any dividends and other distributions. Any cash and certificates of BancGroup Common Stock deposited with the Exchange Agent shall hereinafter be referred to as the Exchange Fund. For six months following the Effective Time, the Exchange Fund shall not be used for any other purpose.

(i) *Exchange Procedures.* Within five (5) Business Days after the Effective Time, the Resulting Corporation shall cause the Exchange Agent to mail to each holder of an Acquired Corporation Certificate: (i) a letter of transmittal ( Letter of Transmittal ) which shall specify that delivery shall be effected and risk of loss and title to the Acquired Corporation Certificates shall pass only upon delivery of the Acquired Corporation Certificates to the Exchange Agent and which Letter of Transmittal shall be in customary form and have such other provisions as BancGroup or the Resulting Corporation, as the case may be, may reasonably specify and (ii) instructions for effecting the surrender of such Acquired Corporation Certificates in exchange for the Merger Consideration. Upon surrender of an Acquired Corporation Certificate to the Exchange Agent together with such Letter of Transmittal, duly executed and completed in accordance with the instructions thereto, and such other documents as may reasonably be required by the Exchange Agent, the holder of such Acquired Corporation Certificate shall be entitled to receive in exchange therefor, and Resulting Corporation shall instruct Exchange Agent to transmit as promptly as commercially practicable, (i) one or more shares of BancGroup Common Stock (which may be in uncertificated book-entry form unless a physical certificate is requested) representing, in the aggregate, the whole number of shares that such holder has the right to receive pursuant to this Agreement and (ii) a check for any cash portion of the Merger Consideration and for the cash that such holder has the right to receive pursuant to this Agreement, including cash in lieu of any fractional shares of BancGroup Common Stock and dividends and other distributions required or permitted by this Agreement. No interest will be paid or will accrue on any cash payable for the cash portion of the Merger Consideration. In the event of a transfer of ownership of Acquired Corporation Stock which is not registered in the transfer records of Acquired Corporation, one or more shares of BancGroup Common Stock evidencing, in the aggregate, the proper number of shares of BancGroup Common Stock and a check for the cash portion of the Merger Consideration, the cash in lieu of any fractional shares of BancGroup Common Stock and any dividends or other distributions to which such holder is entitled pursuant to this Agreement, may be issued with respect to such Acquired Corporation Stock to such a transferee if the Acquired Corporation Certificate representing such shares of Acquired Corporation Stock is presented to the Exchange Agent, accompanied by all documents required to evidence and effect such transfer and to evidence that any applicable stock transfer taxes have been paid.

(j) *No Further Ownership Rights in Acquired Corporation Stock.* All shares of BancGroup Common Stock issued and cash paid upon conversion of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock in accordance with the terms of this Article 3 (including any cash paid pursuant to this Agreement) shall be deemed to have been issued or paid in full satisfaction of all rights pertaining to the shares of Acquired Corporation Stock. Until surrendered as contemplated by this Section 3.6, each Acquired Corporation Certificate shall be deemed at any time after the Effective Time to represent only the right to receive upon such surrender the Merger Consideration and any dividends or distributions to which a holder of Acquired Corporation Stock on or prior to the Effective Time is entitled to receive under this Agreement.



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(k) *Termination of Exchange Fund.* Any portion of the Exchange Fund which remains undistributed to the holders of the Acquired Corporation Certificate six months after the Effective Time shall be delivered to the Resulting Corporation and any holders of the Acquired Corporation Certificates who have not theretofore complied with this Section 3.6 shall thereafter look only to the Resulting Corporation for the Merger Consideration with respect to the shares of Acquired Corporation Stock formerly represented thereby to which such holders are entitled pursuant to this Agreement, any cash in lieu of fractional shares of BancGroup Common Stock to which such holders are entitled pursuant to this Agreement and any dividends or distributions with respect to shares of BancGroup Common Stock to which such holders are entitled pursuant to this Agreement.

(l) *No Liability.* None of BancGroup, the Acquired Corporation, the Resulting Corporation or the Exchange Agent shall be liable to any Person in respect of any Merger Consideration from the Exchange Fund delivered to a public official pursuant to any applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar law.

(m) *Lost Certificates.* If any Acquired Corporation Certificate shall have been lost, stolen, destroyed, upon the making of an affidavit of that fact by the Person claiming such Acquired Corporation Certificate to be lost, stolen, or destroyed and, if required by the Resulting Corporation that posting by such Person of a bond in such reasonable amount as the Resulting Corporation may direct as indemnity against any claim that may be made against it with respect to such Certificate, the Exchange Agent will deliver in exchange for such lost, stolen or destroyed Acquired Corporation Certificate the applicable Merger Consideration with respect to the shares of Acquired Corporation Stock formerly represented thereby, any cash in lieu of fractional shares of BancGroup Common Stock, and unpaid dividends and distributions on shares of BancGroup Common Stock deliverable in respect thereof, in each case, pursuant to this Agreement.

(n) *Stock Transfer Books.* The stock transfer books of the Acquired Corporation shall be closed immediately at the Effective Time and there shall be no further registration of transfers of shares of Acquired Corporation Stock thereafter on the records of Acquired Corporation. On or after the Effective Time, any Acquired Corporation Certificates presented to the Exchange Agent or the Resulting Corporation for any reason shall be converted into the Merger Consideration with respect to the shares of Acquired Corporation Stock formerly represented thereby, any cash in lieu of fractional shares of BancGroup Common Stock to which the holders thereof are entitled pursuant to this Agreement and any dividends or other distributions to which the holders thereof are entitled pursuant to this Agreement.

(o) *Investment of Exchange Fund.* The Exchange Agent shall invest any cash included in the Exchange Fund, as directed by the Resulting Corporation, on a daily basis. Any interest and other income resulting from such investments shall be paid to Resulting Corporation. To the extent that there are losses with respect to such investments, or the Exchange Fund diminishes for other reasons below the level required to make prompt payments of the Merger Consideration as contemplated hereby, Resulting Corporation shall promptly replace or restore the portion of the Exchange Fund lost through investments or other events so as to ensure that the Exchange Fund is, at all times, maintained at a level sufficient to make such payments.

**ARTICLE 4**

**REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES AND COVENANTS OF BANCGROUP**

No representation or warranty contained in this Article 4 shall be deemed untrue or incorrect, and BancGroup shall not be deemed to have breached a representation or warranty as a consequence of the existence or absence of any fact, event or circumstance, unless such fact, event or circumstance is not set forth in BancGroup's disclosure schedules to this Agreement and, whether individually or in the aggregate with all other facts, events or circumstances that have not been set forth in BancGroup disclosure schedules to this Agreement, has had or is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect. Except as disclosed in any BancGroup disclosure schedule to this Agreement, BancGroup represents, warrants and covenants to and with Acquired Corporation as follows:

**4.1 Organization.** BancGroup is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the Laws of the State of Delaware. BancGroup has the necessary corporate powers to carry on its business as

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presently conducted and is qualified to do business in every jurisdiction in which the character and location of the Assets owned by it or the nature of the business transacted by it requires qualification or in which the failure to qualify could, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect. BancGroup is duly registered as a financial holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended.

**4.2 Capital Stock.**

(a) The authorized capital stock of BancGroup consists of (i) 400,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$2.50 par value per share, of which as of September 30, 2006, 156,196,005 shares were validly issued and 153,244,378 were outstanding, fully paid and nonassessable and are not subject to preemptive rights (not counting additional shares subject to issue pursuant to stock option and other plans), (ii) 50,000,000 shares of Preferred stock, \$2.50 par value per share, none of which are issued and outstanding, and (iii) 1,000,000 shares of Preference Stock, \$2.50 par value per share, none of which are issued and outstanding. The shares of BancGroup Common Stock to be issued in the Merger are duly authorized and, when so issued, will be validly issued and outstanding, fully paid and nonassessable, will have been registered under the 1933 Act, and will have been registered or qualified under the securities laws of all jurisdictions in which such registration or qualification is required, based upon information provided by Acquired Corporation.

(b) The authorized capital stock of each Subsidiary of BancGroup is validly issued and outstanding, fully paid and nonassessable, and each Significant Subsidiary (as defined in Section 1-02 of Regulation S-X under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended) is wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by BancGroup.

**4.3 Financial Statements; Taxes.** (a) BancGroup has delivered to Acquired Corporation copies of the following financial statements of BancGroup:

(i) Consolidated statements of condition as of December 31, 2004, December 31, 2005, and September 30, 2006;

(ii) Consolidated statements of income for each of the three years ended December 31, 2005, and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006;

(iii) Consolidated statements of cash flows for each of the three years ended December 31, 2005, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2006; and

(iv) Consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' equity for each of the three years ended December 31, 2005, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2006.

All such financial statements are in all material respects in accordance with the books and records of BancGroup and have been prepared in accordance with GAAP applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods indicated unless otherwise stated, all as more particularly set forth in the notes to such statements. Each of the consolidated statements of condition presents fairly as of its date the consolidated financial condition of BancGroup and its Subsidiaries. Except as and to the extent reflected or reserved against in such balance sheets (including the notes thereto), BancGroup and its Subsidiaries did not have, as of the dates of such balance sheets, any material Liabilities or obligations (absolute or contingent) of a nature customarily reflected in a balance sheet or the notes thereto. The consolidated statements of income, cash flows and changes in shareholders' equity present fairly the results of operations and changes in financial position of BancGroup and its Subsidiaries for the periods indicated. The foregoing representations, insofar as they relate to the unaudited interim financial statements of BancGroup for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006, are subject in all cases to normal recurring year-end adjustments and the omission of footnote disclosure.

(b) All Tax returns required to be filed by or on behalf of BancGroup and its Subsidiaries have been timely filed (or requests for extensions therefore have been timely filed and granted and have not expired), and all returns filed are complete and accurate in all material respects. All Taxes shown on these returns to be due and all additional assessments received have been paid. The amounts recorded for Taxes on the

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balance sheets provided under section 4.3(a) are, to the Knowledge of BancGroup, sufficient in all material respects for the payment of all unpaid federal, state, county, local, foreign or other Taxes (including any interest or penalties) of BancGroup and its Subsidiaries accrued for or applicable to the period ended on the dates thereof, and all years and periods prior thereto and for which BancGroup and its Subsidiaries may at such dates have been liable in its own right or as transferee of the Assets of, or as successor to, any other corporation or other party. No audit, examination or investigation is presently being conducted or, to the Knowledge of BancGroup, threatened by any taxing authority which is likely to result in a material Tax Liability, no material unpaid Tax deficiencies or additional liabilities of any sort have been proposed by any governmental representative and no agreements for extension of time for the assessment of any material amount of Tax have been entered into by or on behalf of BancGroup or any of its Subsidiaries. BancGroup and its Subsidiaries have withheld from its employees (and timely paid to the appropriate governmental entity) proper and accurate amounts for all periods in material compliance with all Tax withholding provisions of applicable federal, state, foreign and local Laws (including without limitation, income, social security and employment Tax withholding for all types of compensation).

**4.4 No Conflict with Other Instrument.** The consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement will not result in a breach of or constitute a Default (without regard to the giving of notice or the passage of time) under any material Contract, indenture, mortgage, deed of trust or other material agreement or instrument to which BancGroup or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or by which they or their Assets may be bound; will not conflict with any provision of the restated certificate of incorporation or bylaws of BancGroup or the articles of incorporation or bylaws of any of its Subsidiaries; and will not violate any provision of any Law, regulation, judgment or decree binding on them or any of their Assets.

**4.5 Absence of Material Adverse Change.** Since the date of the most recent statement of condition provided under section 4.3(a)(i) above, there have been no events, changes or occurrences which have had or are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on BancGroup.

**4.6 Approval of Agreement.** The board of directors of BancGroup, or its Executive Committee, has approved this Agreement and the transactions contemplated by it and has authorized the execution and delivery by BancGroup of this Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the legal, valid and binding obligation of BancGroup, enforceable against it in accordance with its terms. Approval of this Agreement by the stockholders of BancGroup is not required by applicable Law. Subject to the matters referred to in section 8.2, BancGroup has full power, authority and legal right to enter into this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. BancGroup has no Knowledge of any fact or circumstance under which the appropriate regulatory approvals required by section 8.2 will not be granted without the imposition of material conditions or material delays on BancGroup or Colonial Bank, N.A.

**4.7 Tax Treatment.** BancGroup has no present plan to sell or otherwise dispose of any of the Assets of Acquired Corporation, subsequent to the Merger, and BancGroup intends to continue the historic business of Acquired Corporation.

**4.8 Title and Related Matters.** BancGroup or its Subsidiaries have good and marketable title to all the properties, interests in properties and Assets, real and personal, that are material to the business of BancGroup, reflected in the most recent statement of condition referred to in section 4.3(a), or acquired after the date of such balance sheet (except properties, interests and Assets sold or otherwise disposed of since such date, in the ordinary course of business), free and clear of all mortgages, Liens, pledges, charges or encumbrances except (i) mortgages and other encumbrances referred to in the notes of such balance sheet, (ii) liens for current Taxes not yet due and payable and (iii) such imperfections of title and easements as do not materially detract from or interfere with the present use of the properties subject thereto or affected thereby, or otherwise materially impair present business operations at such properties. To the Knowledge of BancGroup, the material structures and equipment of BancGroup and its Subsidiaries comply in all material respects with the requirements of all applicable Laws.

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**4.9 Subsidiaries.** Each Subsidiary of BancGroup has been duly incorporated and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the Laws of the jurisdiction of its incorporation and each Subsidiary has been duly qualified as a foreign corporation to transact business and is in good standing under the Laws of each other jurisdiction in which it owns or leases properties, or conducts any business so as to require such qualification and in which the failure to be duly qualified could have a Material Adverse Effect upon BancGroup and its Subsidiaries considered as one enterprise; BancGroup's banking subsidiary has its deposits fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to the extent permitted by the Federal Deposit Insurance Act; and the businesses of the non-bank Subsidiaries of BancGroup are permitted businesses of registered bank holding companies that are financial holding companies.

**4.10 Contracts.** Neither BancGroup nor any of its Subsidiaries is in violation of its respective certificate of incorporation or bylaws or in Default in the performance or observance of any material obligation, agreement, covenant or condition contained in any Contract, indenture, mortgage, loan agreement, note, lease or other instrument to which it is a party or by which it or its property may be bound except where such violation could not be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on BancGroup.

**4.11 Litigation.** Except as disclosed in or reserved for in BancGroup's financial statements, there is no Litigation before or by any court or Agency, domestic or foreign, now pending, or, to the Knowledge of BancGroup, threatened against or affecting BancGroup or any of its Subsidiaries (nor is BancGroup aware of any facts which could give rise to any such Litigation) which is required to be disclosed in the Registration Statement (other than as disclosed therein), or which is likely to have any Material Adverse Effect or prospective Material Adverse Effect, or which is likely to materially and adversely affect the properties or Assets thereof or which is likely to materially affect or delay the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement; all pending legal or governmental proceedings to which BancGroup or any Subsidiary is a party or of which any of their properties is the subject which are not described in the Registration Statement, including ordinary routine litigation incidental to the business, are, considered in the aggregate, not material; and neither BancGroup nor any of its Subsidiaries have any contingent obligations which could be considered material to BancGroup and its Subsidiaries considered as one enterprise which are not disclosed in the Registration Statement as it may be amended or supplemented.

**4.12 Compliance.** BancGroup and its Subsidiaries, in the conduct of their businesses, are to the Knowledge of BancGroup, in compliance with all federal, state or local Laws applicable to the conduct of their businesses except where non-compliance could not be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on BancGroup.

**4.13 Registration Statement.** At the time the Registration Statement becomes effective and at the time of the Shareholders' Meeting, the Registration Statement, including the Proxy Statement which shall constitute a part thereof, will comply in all material respects with the requirements of the 1933 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, will not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; provided, however, that the representations and warranties in this subsection shall not apply to statements in or omissions from the Proxy Statement made in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished in writing to BancGroup by Acquired Corporation or any of its representatives expressly for use in the Proxy Statement or information included in the Proxy Statement regarding the business of Acquired Corporation, its operations, Assets and capital.

**4.14 SEC Filings.** (a) BancGroup has heretofore delivered to Acquired Corporation copies of BancGroup's: (i) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005; (ii) 2005 Annual Report to Shareholders; (iii) Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2006, June 30, 2006, and September 30, 2006; and (iv) any reports on Form 8-K, filed by BancGroup with the SEC since December 31, 2005. Since December 31, 2005, BancGroup has timely filed all reports and registration statements and the documents required to be filed with the SEC under the rules and regulations of the SEC and all such reports and

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registration statements or other documents have complied in all material respects, as of their respective filing dates and effective dates, as the case may be, with all the applicable requirements of the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. As of the respective filing and effective dates, none of such reports or registration statements or other documents contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(b) The documents to be incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement, at the time they were filed with the SEC, complied in all material respects with the requirements of the 1934 Act and Regulations thereunder and when read together and with the other information in the Registration Statement will not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading at the time the Registration Statement becomes effective or at the time of the Shareholders Meeting.

**4.15 Form S-4.** The conditions for use of a registration statement on SEC Form S-4 set forth in the General Instructions on Form S-4 have been or will be satisfied with respect to BancGroup and the Registration Statement.

**4.16 Brokers.** All negotiations related to this Agreement and the transaction contemplated by this Agreement, have been carried on by BancGroup with Acquired Corporation without the intervention of any other person, other than Hovde Financial, Inc. ( Hovde ), Acquired Corporation's investment banker and advisor, in any manner as to give rights to any valid claim against BancGroup for finders fees, brokerage commissions, or other like or similar payment for services rendered incident to this undertaking.

**4.17 Government Authorization.** BancGroup and its Subsidiaries have all Permits that are or will be legally required to enable BancGroup or any of its Subsidiaries to conduct their businesses in all material respects as now conducted by each of them.

**4.18 Absence of Regulatory Communications.** Neither BancGroup nor any of its material Subsidiaries is currently subject to, or has otherwise received during the past three (3) years, any written communication directed specifically to it from any Agency to which it is subject or pursuant to which such Agency has imposed or has indicated it may impose any material restrictions on the operations of it or the business conducted by it or in which such Agency has raised a material question concerning the condition, financial or otherwise, of such company.

**4.19 Disclosure.** No representation or warranty, or any statement or certificate furnished or to be furnished to Acquired Corporation by BancGroup, contains or will contain any untrue statement of a material fact, or omits or will omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements contained in this Agreement or in any such statement or certificate not misleading.

**ARTICLE 5**

**REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES AND COVENANTS OF ACQUIRED CORPORATION**

Except as set forth in a disclosure schedule delivered by the Acquired Corporation to BancGroup (the Acquired Corporation Disclosure Schedule ) prior to the date hereof (which sets forth, among other things, items the disclosure of which is necessary or appropriate either in response to an express provision of this Agreement or as an exception to one or more of its representations and warranties set forth below or its covenants in Articles 6 and 7, provided, that (i) no such item is required to be set forth in the Acquired Corporation Disclosure Schedule as an exception to any representation or warranty of the Acquired Corporation if its absence (in combination with any other undisclosed information) would not be reasonably likely to result in the related representation or warranty being deemed untrue or incorrect under the standard set forth in Section 9.1 and (ii) the mere inclusion of an item in the Acquired Corporation Disclosure Schedule as an exception to a representation or warranty shall not be deemed an admission by the Acquired Corporation that such item represents a material exception or fact, event or circumstance or that such item is or would be reasonably likely to result in a Material Adverse Effect with respect to the Acquired Corporation.

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Acquired Corporation represents, warrants and covenants to and with BancGroup, as follows:

**5.1 Organization.** Acquired Corporation is a Florida corporation, and Bank is a state chartered bank. Each Acquired Corporation Company is duly organized, validly existing and in active status under the respective Laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation or association and has all requisite power and authority to carry on its business as it is now being conducted and is qualified to do business in every jurisdiction in which the character and location of the Assets owned by it or the nature of the business transacted by it requires qualification and in which the failure to qualify could, individually, or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect.

**5.2 Capital Stock.** As of the date of this Agreement, the authorized capital stock of Acquired Corporation consisted of 15,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.08 par value per share, 6,615,210 shares of which are issued, and 6,060,435 were outstanding, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$3.75 per share, none of which are outstanding. All of such shares which are outstanding are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable and not subject to preemptive rights. Acquired Corporation has 587,106 shares of its common stock subject to issuance pursuant to the exercise of stock options under its stock option plans of which 587,106 are exercisable (or which shall become exercisable prior to the Effective Time). Except for the foregoing, Acquired Corporation does not have any other arrangements or commitments obligating it to issue shares of its capital stock or any securities convertible into or having the right to purchase shares of its capital stock, including the grant, issuance or vesting of additional Acquired Corporation Options.

**5.3 Subsidiaries.** Acquired Corporation does not have any Subsidiaries other than the Bank.

Acquired Corporation owns all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of the Bank free and clear of any liens, claims or encumbrances of any kind. All of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of each Acquired Corporation Company have been validly issued and are fully paid and non-assessable. As of the date of this Agreement, there were (i) with respect to the Bank, 2,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$5.00 per share, authorized and 1,164,712 shares outstanding and no shares of preferred stock. Other than as listed above, no Acquired Corporation Company has any other form of stock authorized or outstanding. The Bank has no arrangements or commitments obligating it to issue shares of any of its capital stock or any securities convertible into or having the right to purchase shares of any of its capital stock.

**5.4 Financial Statements; Taxes.** (a) Acquired Corporation has delivered to BancGroup copies of the following financial statements of Acquired Corporation:

(i) Consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2004, December 31, 2005, and September 30, 2006;

(ii) Consolidated statements of income for each of the three years ended December 31, 2005, and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006;

(iii) Consolidated statements of cash flows for each of the three years ended December 31, 2005, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2006; and

(iv) Consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' equity for the three years ended December 31, 2005, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2006.

All of the foregoing financial statements are in all material respects in accordance with the books and records of Acquired Corporation and have been prepared in accordance with GAAP applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods indicated, except for changes required by GAAP, all as more particularly set forth in the notes to such statements. Each of such balance sheets presents fairly as of its date the financial condition of Acquired Corporation. Except as and to the extent reflected or reserved against in such balance sheets (including the notes thereto), Acquired Corporation did not have, as of the date of such balance sheets, any material Liabilities or obligations (absolute or contingent) of a nature customarily reflected in a balance sheet or the notes thereto. The statements of income, shareholders' equity and cash flows present fairly the results of operation, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows of Acquired Corporation for the periods indicated. The foregoing

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representations, insofar as they relate to the unaudited interim financial statements of Acquired Corporation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2006, are subject in all cases to normal recurring year-end adjustments and the omission of footnote disclosure.

(b) All Tax returns required to be filed by or on behalf of Acquired Corporation have been timely filed (or requests for extensions therefore have been timely filed and granted and have not expired), and all returns filed are complete and accurate in all material respects. All Taxes shown on these returns to be due and all additional assessments received have been paid. The amounts recorded for Taxes on the balance sheets provided under section 5.4(a) are, to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, sufficient in all material respects for the payment of all unpaid federal, state, county, local, foreign and other Taxes (including any interest or penalties) of Acquired Corporation accrued for or applicable to the period ended on the dates thereof, and all years and periods prior thereto and for which Acquired Corporation may at such dates have been liable in its own right or as a transferee of the Assets of, or as successor to, any other corporation or other party. No audit, examination or investigation is presently being conducted or, to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, threatened by any taxing authority which is likely to result in a material Tax Liability, no material unpaid Tax deficiencies or additional liability of any sort has been proposed by any governmental representative and no agreements for extension of time for the assessment of any material amount of Tax have been entered into by or on behalf of Acquired Corporation. Acquired Corporation has not executed an extension or waiver of any statute of limitations on the assessment or collection of any Tax due that is currently in effect.

(c) Each Acquired Corporation Company has withheld from its employees (and timely paid to the appropriate governmental entity) proper and accurate amounts for all periods in material compliance with all Tax withholding provisions of applicable federal, state, foreign and local Laws (including without limitation, income, social security and employment Tax withholding for all types of compensation). Each Acquired Corporation Company is in compliance with, and its records contain all information and documents (including properly completed IRS Forms W-9) necessary to comply with, all applicable information reporting and Tax withholding requirements under federal, state and local Tax Laws, and such records identify with specificity all accounts subject to backup withholding under section 3406 of the Code.

**5.5 Absence of Certain Changes or Events.** Except as set forth on Schedule 5.5, since the date of the most recent balance sheet provided under section 5.4(a)(i) above, no Acquired Corporation Company has

(a) issued, delivered or agreed to issue or deliver any stock, bonds or other corporate securities (whether authorized and unissued or held in the treasury) except shares of common stock issued upon the exercise of existing Acquired Corporation Options and shares issued as director's qualifying shares;

(b) borrowed or agreed to borrow any funds or incurred, or become subject to, any Liability (absolute or contingent) except borrowings, obligations (including purchase of federal funds) and Liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice;

(c) paid any material obligation or Liability (absolute or contingent) other than current Liabilities reflected in or shown on the most recent balance sheet referred to in section 5.4(a)(i) and current Liabilities incurred since that date in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice;

(d) declared or made, or agreed to declare or make, any payment of dividends or distributions of any Assets of any kind whatsoever to shareholders, or purchased or redeemed, or agreed to purchase or redeem, directly or indirectly, or otherwise acquire, any of its outstanding securities; *provided*, however, that Acquired Corporation may (i) continue to make quarterly cash dividends of no more than \$0.2100 per share and at times consistent with past practices and as set forth on Schedule 5.5(d) to this Agreement and (ii) accelerate the vesting of any existing options to purchase Acquired Corporation common stock;

(e) except in the ordinary course of business or as requested by BancGroup, sold or transferred, or agreed to sell or transfer, any of its Assets, or canceled, or agreed to cancel, any debts or claims;

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(f) except in the ordinary course of business, entered or agreed to enter into any agreement or arrangement granting any preferential rights to purchase any of its Assets, or requiring the consent of any party to the transfer and assignment of any of its Assets;

(g) waived any rights of value which in either event in the aggregate are material considering its business as a whole;

(h) except in the ordinary course of business, made or permitted any amendment or termination of any Contract, agreement or license to which it is a party if such amendment or termination is material considering its business as a whole;

(i) except in accordance with normal and usual practice, made any accrual or arrangement for or payment of bonuses or special compensation of any kind or any severance or termination pay to any present or former officer or employee;

(j) except in accordance with normal and usual practice, increased the rate of compensation payable to or to become payable to any of its officers or employees or made any material increase in any profit sharing, bonus, deferred compensation, savings, insurance, pension, retirement or other employee benefit plan, payment or arrangement made to, for or with any of its officers or employees;

(k) failed to operate its business in the ordinary course in a manner intended to preserve its business intact and intended to preserve the goodwill of its customers and others with whom it has business relations;

(l) entered into any other transaction material to the Acquired Corporation and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole other than in the ordinary course of business or as requested by BancGroup; or

(m) agreed in writing, or otherwise, to take any action described in clauses (a) through (l) above.

Between the date hereof and the Effective Time, no Acquired Corporation Company, without the express written approval of BancGroup, will do any of the things listed in clauses (a) through (m) of this section 5.5 except as permitted therein or as contemplated in this Agreement, and no Acquired Corporation Company will enter into or amend any material Contract, other than Loans or renewals thereof entered into in the ordinary course of business, without the express written consent of BancGroup.

**5.6 Title and Related Matters.**

(a) *Title.* Each Acquired Corporation Company has good and marketable title to all the properties, interest in properties and Assets, real and personal, that are material to the business of such Acquired Corporation Company, reflected in the most recent balance sheet referred to in section 5.4(a)(i), or acquired after the date of such balance sheet (except properties, interests and Assets sold or otherwise disposed of since such date, in the ordinary course of business), free and clear of all mortgages, Liens, pledges, charges or encumbrances except (i) mortgages and other encumbrances referred to in the notes to such balance sheet, (ii) Liens for current Taxes not yet due and payable and (iii) such imperfections of title and easements as do not materially detract from or interfere with the present use of the properties subject thereto or affected thereby, or otherwise materially impair present business operations at such properties. To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, the material structures and equipment of each Acquired Corporation Company comply in all material respects with the requirements of all applicable Laws.

(b) *Leases.* Schedule 5.6(b) sets forth a list and description of all real property owned or leased by any Acquired Corporation Company, either as lessor or lessee. Complete and accurate copies of all such leases have been attached to a Schedule to this Agreement.

(c) *Personal Property.* Schedule 5.6(c) sets forth a depreciation schedule of each Acquired Corporation Company's fixed Assets as of December 31, 2006.

(d) *Computer Hardware and Software.* Schedule 5.6(d) contains a description of all agreements relating to data processing computer software and hardware now being used in the business operations of



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any Acquired Corporation Company and providing for annual payments in excess of \$50,000 per year. Acquired Corporation is not aware of any defects, irregularities or problems with any of its computer hardware or software which renders such hardware or software unable to satisfactorily perform the tasks and functions to be performed by them in the business of any Acquired Corporation Company. Complete and accurate copies of all Contracts, plans and other items so listed have been attached to a Schedule to this Agreement.

**5.7 Commitments.** Except as set forth in Schedule 5.7, no Acquired Corporation Company is a party to any oral or written (i) Contract for the employment of any officer or employee which is not terminable on 30 days (or less) notice, (ii) profit sharing, bonus, deferred compensation, savings, stock option, severance pay, pension or retirement plan, agreement or arrangement, (iii) loan agreement, indenture or similar agreement relating to the borrowing of money by such party, (iv) guaranty of any obligation for the borrowing of money or otherwise, excluding endorsements made for collection, and guaranties made in the ordinary course of business, (v) consulting or other similar material Contracts, (vi) collective bargaining agreement, (vii) other than made in the ordinary course of business, agreement with any present or former officer, director or shareholder of such party, (viii) other than made in the ordinary course of business, any contract that is not terminable within ninety (90) days or (ix) other than made in the ordinary course of business, other Contract, agreement or other commitment which is material to the business, operations, property, prospects or Assets or to the condition, financial or otherwise, of any Acquired Corporation Company. Complete and accurate copies of all Contracts, plans and other items so listed have been attached to a Schedule to this Agreement.

**5.8 Charter and Bylaws.** Schedule 5.8 contains true and correct copies of the articles of incorporation and bylaws of each Acquired Corporation Company, including all amendments thereto, as currently in effect. Except as may be required by any regulatory agency (and Acquired Corporation has no Knowledge of any regulatory action that might require such a change), there will be no changes in such articles of incorporation or bylaws prior to the Effective Time, without the prior written consent of BancGroup.

**5.9 Litigation.** Except as set forth in the Acquired Corporation's SEC filings made prior to the date of this Agreement or except as set forth on Schedule 5.9, there is no Litigation (whether or not purportedly on behalf of Acquired Corporation) pending or, to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, threatened against or to which any Acquired Corporation Company is a party (nor does Acquired Corporation have Knowledge of any facts which are likely to give rise to any such Litigation) at law or in equity, or before or by any governmental department, commission, board, bureau, agency or instrumentality, domestic or foreign, or before any arbitrator of any kind, which involves the possibility of any judgment or Liability not fully covered by insurance in excess of a reasonable deductible amount or which is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Acquired Corporation, and no Acquired Corporation Company is in Default with respect to any judgment, order, writ, injunction, decree, award, rule or regulation of any court, arbitrator or governmental department, commission, board, bureau, agency or instrumentality, which Default would be reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Acquired Corporation. To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, each Acquired Corporation Company has complied in all material respects with all material applicable Laws and Regulations including those imposing Taxes, of any applicable jurisdiction and of all states, municipalities, other political subdivisions and Agencies, in respect of the ownership of its properties and the conduct of its business, which, if not complied with, would be reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Acquired Corporation.

**5.10 Material Contract Defaults.** No Acquired Corporation Company is in Default in any material respect under the terms of any material Contract and, to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, there is no event which, with notice or lapse of time, or both, may be or become an event of Default on the part of an Acquired Corporation Company under any such material Contract in respect of which adequate steps have not been taken to prevent such a Default from occurring, which in each case or in the aggregate, could be reasonably likely to result in a Material Adverse Effect on the Acquired Corporation. Acquired Corporation will use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain consents to the Merger under any the agreements listed on Schedule 5.11 hereto, provided that Acquired Corporation's failure to obtain such consents as of the closing shall not be deemed a breach of this Section 5.10.

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**5.11 No Conflict with Other Instrument.** The consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement will not result in the breach of any term or provision of or constitute a Default under any material Contract which Default could be reasonably likely to result in a Material Adverse Effect on the Acquired Corporation, to which any Acquired Corporation Company is a party and will not conflict with any provision of the charter or bylaws of any Acquired Corporation Company. Acquired Corporation will use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain consents to the Merger under the agreements listed on Schedule 5.11 hereto, provided that Acquired Corporation's failure to obtain such consents as of the Closing shall not be deemed a breach of this Section 5.11 representation.

**5.12 Governmental Authorization.** Each Acquired Corporation Company has all Permits that, to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, are or will be legally required to enable any Acquired Corporation Company to conduct its business in all material respects as now conducted by each Acquired Corporation Company.

**5.13 Absence of Regulatory Communications.** No Acquired Corporation Company is subject to, nor has any Acquired Corporation Company received during the past three years, any written communication directed specifically to it from any Agency to which it is subject or pursuant to which such Agency has imposed or has indicated it may impose any material restrictions on the operations of it or the business conducted by it or in which such Agency has raised any material question concerning the condition, financial or otherwise, of such company. The Acquired Corporation represents that it is not the subject of any regulatory investigation or the subject of any regulatory sanction as of the date of this Agreement.

**5.14 Absence of Material Adverse Change.** To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, since the date of the most recent balance sheet provided under section 5.4(a)(i), there have been no adverse events, changes or occurrences which have had, or are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on the Acquired Corporation.

**5.15 Insurance.** Each Acquired Corporation Company has in effect insurance coverage and bonds with reputable insurers which, in respect to amounts, types and risks insured, management of Acquired Corporation reasonably believes to be adequate for the type of business conducted by such company. No Acquired Corporation Company is liable for any material retroactive premium adjustment. To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, all insurance policies and bonds are valid, enforceable and in full force and effect, and no Acquired Corporation Company has received any notice of any material premium increase or cancellation with respect to any of its insurance policies or bonds. Within the last three years, no Acquired Corporation Company has been refused any insurance coverage which it has sought or applied for, and nothing has come to its attention which would lead it to believe that existing insurance coverage cannot be renewed as and when the same shall expire, upon terms and conditions as favorable as those presently in effect, other than possible increases in premiums that do not result from any extraordinary loss experience. To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, all policies of insurance presently held or policies containing substantially equivalent coverage will be outstanding and in full force with respect to each Acquired Corporation Company at all times from the date hereof to the Effective Time.

### **5.16 Pension and Employee Benefit Plans.**

(a) To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, all employee benefit plans of each Acquired Corporation Company have been established in compliance with, and such plans have been operated in material compliance with, all applicable Laws, except in each case or in the aggregate, to the extent the same could not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Acquired Corporation. No Acquired Corporation Company sponsors or otherwise maintains a pension plan within the meaning of section 3(2) of ERISA or any other retirement plan other than the Section 401K plan of Acquired Corporation that is intended to qualify under section 401 of the Code, nor do any unfunded (or improperly accrued for) Liabilities exist with respect to any employee benefit plan, past or present. To the Knowledge

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of Acquired Corporation, no employee benefit plan, any trust created thereunder or any trustee or administrator thereof has engaged in a prohibited transaction, as defined in section 4975 of the Code, which may have a Material Adverse Effect on the condition, financial or otherwise, of any Acquired Corporation Company. Any pension plan reflected on Schedule 5.16 will be fully funded (or properly accrued for) by Acquired Corporation prior to the Effective Time.

(b) To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, no amounts payable to any employee of any Acquired Corporation Company as a result of the transactions contemplated hereby will fail to be deductible for federal income tax purposes by virtue of Section 280G of the Code and regulations thereunder; provided however, no representation is made under this Section 5.16(b) with respect to payments made under the Contracts otherwise disclosed in any Schedule hereto. Notwithstanding the introductory language to this Article 5, the representation contained in Section 5.16(b) shall not be deemed to be true even if such amounts payable would not be reasonably likely to cause a Material Adverse Effect to Acquired Corporation.

**5.17 Buy-Sell Agreements.** To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, there are no agreements among any of its shareholders granting to any person or persons a right of first refusal in respect of the sale, transfer, or other disposition of any shares of outstanding securities by any shareholder of Acquired Corporation, any similar agreement or any voting agreement or voting trust in respect of any such shares.

**5.18 Brokers.** Except for services provided to Acquired Corporation by Hovde, negotiations relative to this Agreement and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement have been carried on by Acquired Corporation directly with BancGroup, or its advisors, and without the intervention of any other person, either as a result of any act of Acquired Corporation, or otherwise, in such manner as to give rise to any valid claim against Acquired Corporation for a finder's fee, brokerage commission or other like payment. The general terms and the exact fee which will be paid to Hovde by Acquired Corporation at or prior to the Effective Time is described in Schedule 5.18.

**5.19 Approval of Agreements.** The board of directors of Acquired Corporation has approved this Agreement and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and has authorized the execution and delivery by Acquired Corporation of this Agreement. Subject to the matters referred to in Section 8.2(a), Acquired Corporation has full power, authority and legal right to enter into this Agreement, and, upon appropriate vote of the shareholders of Acquired Corporation in accordance with this Agreement, Acquired Corporation shall have full power, authority and legal right to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

**5.20 Disclosure.** No representation or warranty, nor any statement or certificate furnished or to be furnished to BancGroup by Acquired Corporation, contains or will contain any untrue statement of a material fact, or omits or will omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements contained in this Agreement or in any such statement or certificate not misleading. Except for the representations and warranties made by the Acquired Corporation in this Agreement, its Schedules and its public filings with the SEC, the Acquired Corporation makes no representations or warranties, and the Acquired Corporation hereby disclaims any other representations or warranties, with respect to the Acquired Corporation Companies, or its or their businesses, operations, assets, liabilities, condition (financial or otherwise) or prospects or the negotiation, execution, delivery or performance of this Agreement by the Acquired Corporation.

**5.21 Registration Statement.** At the time the Registration Statement becomes effective and at the time of the Shareholders Meeting, the Registration Statement, including the proxy statement which shall constitute part thereof (the Proxy Statement), will not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; provided, however, that the representations and warranties in this section shall only apply to statements in or omissions from the Proxy Statement relating to descriptions of the business of Acquired Corporation, its Assets, properties, operations, and capital stock or to information furnished in writing by Acquired Corporation or its representatives expressly for inclusion in the Proxy Statement.

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**5.22 Loans; Adequacy of Allowance for Loan Losses.** All reserves for loan losses shown on the most recent financial statements furnished by Acquired Corporation have been calculated in accordance with prudent and customary banking practices and are reasonably adequate in all material respects to reflect the inherent and actual risks in the loans of the Acquired Corporation. Acquired Corporation has no Knowledge of any fact which is likely to require a future material increase in the provision for loan losses or a material decrease in the loan loss reserve reflected in such financial statements, to the extent such increase or decrease would be reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Acquired Corporation. To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, each loan reflected as an Asset on the financial statements of Acquired Corporation is the legal, valid and binding obligation of the obligor of each loan, enforceable in accordance with its terms subject to the effect of bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium, or other similar laws relating to creditors' rights generally and to general equitable principles and complies in all material respects with all Laws to which it is subject, except to the extent such unenforceability could not be reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Acquired Corporation. Acquired Corporation does not have in its portfolio any loan exceeding its legal lending limit. Except as disclosed on Schedule 5.22, as of the date of this Agreement (and to be updated at the Closing) Acquired Corporation, has no known significant delinquent, substandard, doubtful, loss, nonperforming or problem loans.

**5.23 Environmental Matters.** Except for such matters that, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a Material Adverse Effect on the Acquired Corporation, to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, each Acquired Corporation Company is in material compliance with all Laws and other governmental requirements relating to the generation, management, handling, transportation, treatment, disposal, storage, delivery, discharge, release or emission of any waste, pollution, or toxic, hazardous or other substance (the Environmental Laws), and Acquired Corporation has no Knowledge that any Acquired Corporation Company has not complied with all regulations and requirements promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that are applicable to any Acquired Corporation Company. To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, there is no Litigation pending or threatened with respect to any violation or alleged violation by any Acquired Corporation Company of the Environmental Laws, except to the extent such litigation is not reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on any Acquired Corporation Company. Except as disclosed on Schedule 5.23 (and such schedule to be updated at the Closing), to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation (a) there has been no spillage, leakage, contamination or release of any hazardous substances or waste on any owned or leased property of any Acquired Corporation Company for which the appropriate remedial action has not been completed; (b) there are no underground storage tanks on any premises owned or leased by any Acquired Corporation Company; and (c) the Bank's loan committee has not identified any currently outstanding loan or extension of credit on an policy exception or watch basis as a result of any violation of, or required remediation under, any Environmental Laws.

**5.24 Collective Bargaining.** There are no labor contracts, collective bargaining agreements, letters of undertakings or other arrangements, formal or informal, between any Acquired Corporation Company and any union or labor organization covering any Acquired Corporation Company's employees and none of said employees are represented by any union or labor organization.

**5.25 Labor Disputes.** To the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, each Acquired Corporation Company is in material compliance with all federal and state laws respecting employment and employment practices, terms and conditions of employment, wages and hours. No Acquired Corporation Company is or has been engaged in any unfair labor practice, and, to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, no unfair labor practice complaint against any Acquired Corporation Company is pending before the National Labor Relations Board. There have not been, nor to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, are there presently, any attempts to organize employees, nor to the Knowledge of Acquired Corporation, are there plans for any such attempts.

**5.26 Derivative Contracts.** No Acquired Corporation Company is a party to or has agreed to enter into a swap, forward, future, option, cap, floor or collar financial contract, or any other interest rate or foreign currency protection contract or derivative security not included in Acquired Corporation's financial statements delivered under Section 5.4 hereof which is a financial derivative contract (including various combinations thereof).

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**5.27 SEC Filings.** (a) Acquired Corporation has heretofore delivered to BancGroup copies of Acquired Corporation's: (i) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005; (ii) 2005 Annual Report to Shareholders; (iii) Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2006, June 30, 2006, and September 30, 2006; and (iv) any reports on Form 8-K, filed by Acquired Corporation with the SEC since December 31, 2005. Since December 31, 2003, Acquired Corporation has timely filed all reports and registration statements and the documents required to be filed with the SEC under the rules and regulations of the SEC and all such reports and registration statements or other documents have complied in all material respects, as of their respective filing dates and effective dates, as the case may be, with all the applicable requirements of the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. As of the respective filing and effective dates, none of such reports or registration statements or other documents contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(b) The documents to be incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement, at the time they were filed with the SEC, complied in all material respects with the requirements of the 1934 Act and Regulations thereunder and when read together and with the other information in the Registration Statement will not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading at the time the Registration Statement becomes effective or at the time of the Shareholders Meeting.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **ADDITIONAL COVENANTS**

**6.1 Additional Covenants of BancGroup.** BancGroup covenants to and with Acquired Corporation as follows:

(a) *Registration Statement and Other Filings.* As soon as reasonably practicable after the execution of this Agreement, BancGroup shall prepare and file with the SEC the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (or such other form as may be appropriate) and all amendments and supplements thereto, in form reasonably satisfactory to Acquired Corporation and its counsel, with respect to the Common Stock to be issued pursuant to this Agreement. BancGroup shall use commercially reasonable efforts to prepare all necessary filings with any Agencies which may be necessary for approval to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and shall use its reasonable efforts to cause the Registration Statement to become effective under the 1933 Act as soon as reasonably practicable after the filing thereof and take any action required to be taken under other applicable securities Laws in connection with the issuance of the shares of BancGroup Common Stock upon consummation of the Merger. Copies of all such filings shall be furnished to Acquired Corporation and its counsel, sufficiently in advance to permit Acquired Corporation and its counsel to provide substantive review and comment. BancGroup will advise Acquired Corporation and its counsel promptly after it receives notice and/or knowledge thereof, of the time when the Registration Statement has become effective or any supplement or amendment has been filed, the issuance of any stop order, the suspension of the qualification of the BancGroup Common Stock issuable in connection with the Merger for offering or sale in any jurisdiction, or any request by the SEC for amendment of the Registration Statement (or Proxy Statement) and responses thereto or requests by the SEC for additional information.

(b) *Blue Sky Permits.* BancGroup shall use its best efforts to obtain, prior to the effective date of the Registration Statement, all necessary state securities Law or blue sky Permits and approvals required to carry out the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(c) *No Control of Acquired Corporation by BancGroup.* Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, until the Effective Time, the authority to operate the Acquired Corporation and the Bank and establish and implement the business policies of Acquired Corporation and the Bank shall continue to reside solely in Acquired Corporation's and Bank's officers and boards of directors.

(d) *Listing.* Prior to the Effective Time, BancGroup shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cause the shares of BancGroup Common Stock to be issued in the Merger to be listed on the NYSE or other quotations system on which such shares are primarily traded.

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(e) *Employee Benefit Matters.* (i) At the Effective Time, all employees of any Acquired Corporation Company shall, at BancGroup's option, either become employees of the Resulting Corporation or its Subsidiaries or be entitled to severance benefits in accordance with Colonial Bank, N.A.'s severance policy as of the date of this Agreement, which is attached hereto as Schedule 6.1(e). All employees of any Acquired Corporation Company who become employees of the Resulting Corporation or its Subsidiaries at the Effective Time shall be entitled, to the extent permitted by applicable Law, to participate in all benefit plans of Colonial Bank, N.A., including retirement plans, to the same extent as Colonial Bank, N.A. employees, except as stated otherwise in this section. Employees of any Acquired Corporation Company who become employees of the Resulting Corporation or its Subsidiaries at the Effective Time shall be allowed to participate as of the Effective Time in the medical and dental benefits plan of Colonial Bank, N.A. as new employees of Colonial Bank, N.A., and the time of employment of such employees who are employed at least 30 hours per week with any Acquired Corporation Company as of the Effective Time shall be counted as employment under such dental and medical plans of Colonial Bank, N.A. for purposes of calculating any 30 day waiting period and pre-existing condition limitations. To the extent permitted by applicable Law and for all active plans and benefits, the period of service with the appropriate Acquired Corporation Company of all employees who become employees of the Resulting Corporation or its Subsidiaries at the Effective Time shall be recognized for vesting, eligibility and period of service requirements. In addition, if the Effective Time falls within an annual period of coverage under the medical plan of the Resulting Corporation and its Subsidiaries, each such Acquired Corporation Company employee shall be given credit for covered expenses paid by that employee under comparable employee benefit plans of the Acquired Corporation Company during the applicable coverage period through the Effective Time towards satisfaction of any annual deductible limitation and out-of-pocket maximum that may apply under that group health plan of the Resulting Corporation and its Subsidiaries; (ii) for a period of six months following the Effective Time, BancGroup shall provide all employees of the Company and its Subsidiaries whose employment was terminated other than for cause, disability or retirement at or following the Effective Time, and who so desires, job counseling and outplacement assistance services in accordance with BancGroup's employment policies and practices, shall assist each employee in locating new employment and shall notify all such employees who want to be so notified of opportunities for positions with BancGroup or any of its Subsidiaries for which BancGroup reasonably believes such persons are qualified and shall consider any application for such positions submitted by such persons, provided, however, that any decisions to offer employment to any such person shall be made in the sole discretion of BancGroup.

(f) BancGroup will take no action that would prevent or impede the merger from qualifying as a tax-free reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Code, and BancGroup will treat the merger consistently with such qualification for all income Tax purposes. BancGroup will comply with all reporting requirements applicable to reorganizations within the meaning of Section 368 of the Code.

(g) *Indemnification.* (i) Subject to the conditions set forth in the succeeding paragraphs, for a period of six years after the Effective Time BancGroup shall, and shall cause Colonial Bank, N.A. to, indemnify, defend and hold harmless each director and officer of each Acquired Corporation Company (each being an Indemnified Party) against all Liabilities arising out of actions or omissions occurring upon or prior to the Effective Time (including without limitation the transactions contemplated by this Agreement) to the extent required under the bylaws and any existing indemnification agreements, each as in effect on the date hereof, of the of Acquired Corporation and to the extent permitted or required under the DGCL and other applicable Laws, and subject to the limitations contained in 12 U.S.C. §1828(K) and 12 CFR Part 359 of the FDIC regulations.

(ii) BancGroup shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cause individuals serving as directors and officers of any Acquired Corporation Company on the Closing Date to be covered for at least two years from the Closing Date by either (i) the directors' and officers' liability insurance policy maintained by the Acquired Corporation immediately prior to the Closing Date with respect to acts or omissions occurring on or prior to the Effective Time that were committed by such officers and directors as such; or (ii) tail insurance policies with a claims period of at least two years from the Effective Time with respect to directors and officers' liability insurance in an amount and scope at least as favorable as the Acquired Corporation's existing policies for claims arising from facts or events that occurred on or prior to the Effective Time.

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(iii) Any Indemnified Party wishing to claim indemnification under this subsection (h), upon learning of any such Liability or Litigation, shall promptly notify BancGroup thereof. In the event of any such Litigation (whether arising before or after the Effective Time) (A) BancGroup or Colonial Bank, N.A. shall have the right to assume the defense thereof with counsel reasonably acceptable to such Indemnified Party and, upon assumption of such defense, BancGroup shall not be liable to such Indemnified Parties for any legal expenses of other counsel or any other expenses subsequently incurred by such Indemnified Parties in connection with the defense thereof, except that if BancGroup or Colonial Bank, N.A. elects not to assume such defense or counsel for the Indemnified Parties advises that there are substantive issues which raise conflicts of interest between BancGroup and the Indemnified Parties, the Indemnified Parties may retain counsel satisfactory to them, and BancGroup or Colonial Bank, N.A. shall pay all reasonable fees and expenses of such counsel for the Indemnified Parties promptly as statements therefor are received; provided, that BancGroup shall be obligated pursuant to this subsection to pay for only one firm of counsel for all Indemnified Parties in any jurisdiction, (B) the Indemnified Parties will cooperate in the defense of any such Litigation; and (C) BancGroup shall not be liable for any settlement effected without its prior consent (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed); and provided further that BancGroup and Colonial Bank, N.A. shall not have any obligation hereunder to any Indemnified Party (i) when and if a court of competent jurisdiction shall determine, and such determination shall have become final, that the indemnification of such Indemnified Party in the manner contemplated hereby is prohibited by applicable Law, or (ii) it is determined that indemnification is prohibited under 12 USC §1828(K) or 12 CFR Part 359.

(iv) In consideration of and as a condition precedent to the effectiveness of the indemnification obligations provided by BancGroup in this section to a director or officer of the Acquired Corporation, such director or officer of the Acquired Corporation shall have delivered to BancGroup on or prior to the Effective Time a letter in form reasonably satisfactory to BancGroup concerning claims such directors or officers may have against Acquired Corporation. In the letter, the directors or officers shall: (A) acknowledge the assumption by BancGroup as of the Effective Time of all Liability (to the extent Acquired Corporation is so liable) for claims for indemnification arising under section 6.1(h) hereof; (B) affirm that they are unaware of any claims they have or might have (other than those referred to in the following clause (C)) against Acquired Corporation; (C) identify any claims or any facts or circumstances of which they are aware that could give rise to a claim for indemnification under section 6.1(h)(i) hereof; and (D) release as of the Effective Time any and all claims that they may have against any Acquired Corporation Company other than (W) those referred to in the foregoing clause (C) and disclosed in the letter of the director or officer, (X) claims by third parties which have not yet been asserted against such director or officer (other than claims arising from facts and circumstances of which such director or officer is aware but which are not disclosed in such director or executive officer's letter), (Y) claims by third parties arising from any transaction contemplated by this Agreement or disclosed in any schedule to this Agreement, and (Z) claims by third parties arising in the ordinary course of business of any Acquired Corporation Company after the date of the letter.

(v) Acquired Corporation hereby represents and warrants to BancGroup that it has no Knowledge of any claim, pending or threatened, or of any facts or circumstances that could give rise to any obligation by BancGroup to provide the indemnification required by this section 6.1(g) other than as disclosed in the letters of the directors and executive officers referred to in section 6.1(g)(iii) hereof or described in any schedule to this Agreement and claims arising from any transaction contemplated by this Agreement.

(vi) In the event the Resulting Corporation or Colonial Bank, N.A., or any of their respective successors or assigns transfers all or substantially all of its respective properties and assets to any person, then, and in each such case, proper provision shall be made so that the successors and assigns of the Resulting Corporation or Colonial Bank, N.A., as the case may be, shall succeed to or otherwise be bound by the obligations set forth in this Section 6.1(g).

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**6.2 Additional Covenants of Acquired Corporation.** Acquired Corporation covenants to and with BancGroup as follows:

(a) *Operations.* Acquired Corporation will conduct its business and the business of each Acquired Corporation Company in a proper and prudent manner and will use its commercially reasonable efforts to maintain its relationships with its depositors, customers and employees. Without the prior written consent of BancGroup, no Acquired Corporation Company will engage in any material transaction outside the ordinary course of business or make any material change in its accounting policies or methods of operation, nor will Acquired Corporation willingly permit the occurrence of any change or event which would render any of the representations and warranties in Article 5 hereof untrue in any material respect at and as of the Effective Time with the same effect as though such representations and warranties had been made at and as of such Effective Time, unless such representation or warranty is made as of a specific date. Except as set described in detail on Schedule 6.2(a), Acquired Corporation shall cause the Bank to postpone all branch relocation and/or expansion plans prior to the Effective Time or the date of termination pursuant to this Agreement. Acquired Corporation will take no action that would prevent or impede the Merger from qualifying as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Code, and Acquired Corporation will treat the merger consistently with such qualification for all income Tax purposes. Acquired Corporation will comply with all reporting requirements applicable to reorganizations within the meaning of Section 368 of the Code.

(b) *Shareholders Meeting; Commercially Reasonable Efforts.* Acquired Corporation will cooperate with BancGroup in the preparation of the Registration Statement and any regulatory filings and will use commercially reasonable efforts (including with reference to the anticipated timing of any regulatory approvals) to cause the Shareholders Meeting to be held for the purpose of approving the Merger as soon as practicable after the latter of the effective date of the Registration Statement or clearance by the SEC of the Proxy Statement for mailing, and will use commercially reasonable efforts to bring about the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including shareholder approval of this Agreement, as soon as practicable unless this Agreement is terminated as provided herein.

(c) *Prohibited Negotiations.* (i) Except with respect to this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby, no Acquired Corporation Company nor any affiliate thereof nor any investment banker, attorney, accountant, or other representative (collectively, Representatives) retained by an Acquired Corporation Company shall directly or indirectly solicit any Acquisition Proposal by any Person. Except to the extent the Acquired Corporation's Board of Directors, after consultation with counsel, determines in good faith it necessary to comply with its fiduciary duties, no Acquired Corporation Company or any Representative thereof shall furnish any non-public information that it is not legally obligated to furnish, negotiate with respect to, or enter into any Contract with respect to, any Acquisition Proposal, and each Acquired Corporation Company shall direct and use its reasonable efforts to cause all of its Representatives not to engage in any of the foregoing, but Acquired Corporation may communicate information about such an Acquisition Proposal to its shareholders if and to the extent, after consultation with counsel, that it determines in good faith that it is required to do so in order to comply with its legal obligations. Acquired Corporation shall promptly notify BancGroup orally and in writing in the event that any Acquired Corporation Company receives after the date hereof any written inquiry or proposal relating to any such Acquisition Proposal. Acquired Corporation shall immediately cease and cause to be terminated any existing activities, discussions, or negotiations with any Persons other than BancGroup conducted heretofore with respect to any of the foregoing.

(ii) If Acquired Corporation (A) willfully breaches this Agreement and the Merger is not consummated, (B) enters into a letter of intent or definitive agreement regarding an Acquisition Proposal with any third party (other than BancGroup or any of its Subsidiaries) prior to the earlier of (i) the Effective Time or (ii) the termination of this Agreement pursuant to Article 13 hereof (other than a termination pursuant to paragraph (a) of section 13.2 hereof or by Acquired Corporation pursuant to paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of section 13.2 hereof), or (C) if Acquired Corporation receives or is the subject of an Acquisition Proposal from a third party (other than BancGroup or its Subsidiaries) prior to the termination of this Agreement pursuant to Article 13 hereof (other than a termination pursuant to



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paragraph (a) of section 13.2 hereof or by Acquired Corporation pursuant to paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of section 13.2 hereof), and within twelve (12) months after termination of this Agreement pursuant to Article 13 hereof (other than a termination pursuant to paragraph (a) of section 13.2 hereof or by Acquired Corporation pursuant to paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of section 13.2 hereof) an Acquisition Proposal is consummated with such third party, Acquired Corporation covenants and agrees that it shall pay to BancGroup upon written demand at any time (Y) after Acquired Corporation enters into an agreement which is legally binding on Acquired Corporation regarding an Acquisition Proposal or (Z) at any time on or after the date of consummation of such Acquisition Proposal, which ever is the first to occur, the principal sum of \$12,500,000. Such payment shall compensate BancGroup for its direct and indirect costs and expenses in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including BancGroup's management time devoted to negotiation and preparation for the Merger and BancGroup's loss as a result of the Merger not being consummated. The Parties acknowledge and agree that it would be impracticable or extremely difficult to fix the actual damages resulting from the foregoing events and, therefore, the Parties have agreed upon the foregoing payment as liquidated damages which shall not be deemed to be in the nature of a penalty. Other than the payment provided for in this section 6.2(c)(ii) and any Liability for expenses as set forth in Section 15.10 hereof, there shall be no other Liability or obligation on the part of any Acquired Corporation Company or their respective directors or officers resulting from any of the events described in this section 6.2(c)(ii).

(d) *Director Recommendation.* Except to the extent the Board of Directors of Acquired Corporation determines in good faith that it is required to do otherwise in order to comply with their fiduciary duties, the members of the Board of Directors of Acquired Corporation agree to support publicly the Merger and to recommend that Acquired Corporation shareholders vote to approve the Merger at any meeting of the shareholders in which the Merger is considered. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall prohibit the Acquired Corporation from taking and disclosing to its stockholders a position contemplated by Rules 14d-9 and 14e-2(a) promulgated under the 1933 Act or from making any disclosure to the Acquired Corporation's stockholders if the Board of Directors of the Acquired Corporation (or any committee thereof) determines in good faith (after consultation with its outside legal counsel) that it is required to do so under applicable Law.

(e) *Voting.* Acquired Corporation shall on the date of execution of this Agreement obtain and submit to BancGroup an agreement from its directors and Executive Officers substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A (but without any provisions listed in such form as inapplicable to such persons).

(f) *Financial Statements and Monthly Status Reports.* Acquired Corporation shall furnish to BancGroup:

(i) As soon as practicable and in any event within 45 days after the end of each quarterly period in each fiscal year (other than the last quarterly period), consolidated statements of operations of Acquired Corporation for such period and for the period beginning at the commencement of the fiscal year and ending at the end of such quarterly period, and a consolidated statement of financial condition of Acquired Corporation as of the end of such quarterly period, setting forth in each case in comparative form figures for the corresponding periods ending in the preceding fiscal year, subject to changes resulting from year-end adjustments;

(ii) With reasonable promptness, such additional financial data as BancGroup may reasonably request (including a schedule of any classified loans or loans subject to a policy exception or watch status as a result of any matters related to compliance with Environmental Laws); and

(iii) Within 10 calendar days after the end of each month (or, if the financial statements referred to in clause (d) are not then available, as soon as possible thereafter) commencing with the next calendar month following the date of this Agreement and ending at the Effective Time, a written description of (a) any non-compliance with the terms of this Agreement, together with its then current estimate of the out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred or reasonably accruable in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement; (b) the status, as of the date of the report, of all existing or threatened

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litigation against any Acquired Corporation Company; (c) copies of minutes of any meeting of the board of directors of any Acquired Corporation Company and any committee thereof occurring in the month for which such report is made, including all documents presented to the directors at such meetings, provided that, subject to the provisions of Section 6.2(c) hereof, such minutes and documents may exclude discussions relating to BancGroup, the Merger or any other offer or indications of interest to acquire the stock or assets of any Acquired Corporation Company; and (d) monthly financial statements, including a balance sheet and income statement.

(iv) All information obtained by BancGroup or its representatives pursuant to this Section 6.2(f) shall be kept confidential in accordance with that certain confidentiality agreement dated November 13, 2006 unless required by Law or an Order to be disclosed.

(g) *Fiduciary Duties.* Except as disclosed in Schedule 6.2(g), prior to the Effective Time, Acquired Corporation will use its commercially reasonable efforts so that (i) no director or officer (each an Executive) of any Acquired Corporation Company shall, directly or indirectly, own, manage, operate, join, control, be employed by or participate in the ownership, proposed ownership, management, operation or control of or be connected in any manner with, any business, corporation or partnership which is competitive to the business of any Acquired Corporation Company; provided that the ownership of such Executive as an investor of not more than one percent of the outstanding securities of stock of any corporation whose stock is listed for trading on any securities exchange or is quoted on the automated quotation system of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or the shares of any investment company as defined in Section 3 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, shall not in itself constitute a violation of Executive's obligations under this Section 6.2(g); (ii) all Executives, at all times, shall satisfy their fiduciary duties to Acquired Corporation and its Subsidiaries, and (iii) such Executives shall not (except as required in the course of his or her employment with any Acquired Corporation Company) communicate or divulge to, or use for the benefit of himself or herself or any other person, firm, association or corporation, without the express written consent of Acquired Corporation, any confidential information which is possessed, owned or used by or licensed by or to any Acquired Corporation Company or confidential information belonging to third parties which any Acquired Corporation Company shall be under obligation to keep secret or which may be communicated to, acquired by or learned of by the Executive in the course of or as a result of his or her employment with any Acquired Corporation Company.

(h) *Certain Practices.* At the request of BancGroup, (i) Acquired Corporation shall consult with BancGroup and advise BancGroup through Caryn Cope (334-676-5002) or her designee of all of the Bank's loan requests (excluding renewals) over \$1,000,000 that are not single-family residential loan requests or of any other loan request outside the normal course of business, and (ii) Acquired Corporation will consult with BancGroup on a reasonable basis to coordinate various business issues. Acquired Corporation and the Bank shall not be required to undertake any of such activities, however, except as such activities may be in compliance with existing Law and Regulations.

(i) *Sale of Subsidiary Bank Charter.* BancGroup contemplates that it may enter into agreements with another financial institution to undertake a transaction or a series of transactions that occur as of or after the Effective Time and would have the effect of transferring the Bank's Charter to such other financial institution (a Charter Sale). Acquired Corporation agrees that it will take all commercially reasonable actions to assist BancGroup in such a Charter Sale, including, without limitation, approving such transactions as shareholder of the Bank, causing the Bank to prepare and execute such regulatory applications as may be required and to enter into such merger or other agreements as may be required to effectuate a Charter Sale; provided however, that in the event this Agreement is not consummated, BancGroup will promptly reimburse Acquired Corporation and Bank all of their expenses incurred in satisfaction of their obligations under this Section 6.2(i).

(j) *Losses and Loss of Business.* Acquired Corporation shall promptly notify BancGroup if it suffers any Losses other than in the ordinary course of business, and Acquired Corporation shall promptly notify BancGroup if it has received notice or had Knowledge or reason to believe that any of its or the Bank's substantial customers has terminated or intends to terminate its relationship.

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**ARTICLE 7**

**MUTUAL COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS**

**7.1 Commercially Reasonable Efforts; Cooperation.** Subject to the terms and conditions herein provided, BancGroup and Acquired Corporation each agrees to use its commercially reasonable efforts promptly to take, or cause to be taken, all actions and do, or cause to be done, all things necessary, proper or advisable under applicable Laws or otherwise, including, without limitation, promptly making required deliveries of stockholder lists and stock transfer reports and attempting to obtain all necessary Consents and waivers and regulatory approvals, including the holding of any regular or special board meetings, to consummate and make effective, as soon as practicable, the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. Each Party to this Agreement shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cause its respective officers to fully cooperate with officers and employees, accountants, counsel and other representatives of the other Parties not only in fulfilling the duties hereunder of the Party of which they are officers but also in assisting, directly or through direction of employees and other persons under their supervision or control, such as stock transfer agents for the Party, the other Parties requiring information which is reasonably available from such Party.

**7.2 Press Release.** Each Party hereto agrees that, unless approved by the other Party in advance, such Party will not make any public announcement, issue any press release or other publicity or confirm any statements by any person not a party to this Agreement concerning the transactions contemplated hereby. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Party hereto reserves the right to make any disclosure if such Party, in its reasonable discretion, deems such disclosure required by Law. In that event, such Party shall use reasonable efforts to provide to the other Party the text of such disclosure sufficiently in advance to enable the other Party to have a reasonable opportunity to comment thereon.

**7.3 Mutual Disclosure.**

(a) Each Party hereto agrees, upon request from the other Party, to promptly furnish to each other Party hereto its public disclosures and filings not precluded from disclosure by Law including but not limited to call reports, Form 8-K, Form 10-Q and Form 10-K filings, Y-3 applications, reports on Form Y-6, quarterly or special reports to shareholders, Tax returns, Form S-4 and S-8 registration statements and similar documents;

(b) promptly upon receipt thereof, each Party agrees to furnish to the other Party copies of all audit reports submitted to such Party by independent auditors in connection with each annual, interim or special audit of the books of such Party made by such accountants; and

(c) as soon as practicable, copies of all such financial statements and reports as each Party shall send to its stockholders and of such regular and periodic reports as each Party may file with the SEC or any other Agency shall be delivered to the other Party.

**7.4 Access to Properties and Records.** Each Party hereto shall afford the officers and authorized representatives of the other Party reasonable access to the Assets, books and records of such Party in order that such other Parties may have full opportunity to make such investigation as they shall desire of the affairs of such Party and shall furnish to such Parties such additional financial and operating data and other information as to its businesses and Assets as shall be from time to time reasonably requested. All such information that may be obtained by any such Party will be held in confidence by such party, will not be disclosed by such Party or any of its representatives except in accordance with this Agreement, and will not be used by such Party for any purpose other than the accomplishment of the Merger as provided herein.

**7.5 Notice of Adverse Changes.** Each Party agrees to give written notice promptly to the other Party upon becoming aware of the occurrence or impending occurrence of any event or circumstance relating to it or any of its Subsidiaries which (i) is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on it or (ii) would cause or constitute a material breach of any of its representations, warranties, or covenants contained herein, and to use its reasonable efforts to prevent or promptly to remedy the same.

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**ARTICLE 8**

**CONDITIONS TO OBLIGATIONS OF ALL PARTIES**

The obligations of BancGroup and Acquired Corporation to cause the transactions contemplated by this Agreement to be consummated shall be subject to the satisfaction, in the sole discretion of the Party relying upon such conditions, on or before the Effective Time of all the following conditions, except as such Parties may waive such conditions in writing:

**8.1 Approval by Shareholders.** At the Shareholders Meeting, this Agreement and the matters contemplated by this Agreement shall have been duly approved by the vote of the holders of not less than the requisite number of the issued and outstanding voting securities of Acquired Corporation as is required by applicable Law and Acquired Corporation's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

**8.2 Regulatory Authority Approval.** (a) Orders, Consents and approvals, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to BancGroup and Acquired Corporation, shall have been entered by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and other appropriate bank regulatory Agencies (i) granting the authority necessary for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including the possible merger of the Bank with Colonial Bank, N.A., if such merger is desired by Colonial Bank, N.A., as contemplated pursuant to section 2.8 hereof, but excluding the Charter Sale, and (ii) satisfying all other requirements prescribed by Law. No Order, Consent or approval so obtained which is necessary to consummate the transactions as contemplated hereby shall be conditioned or restricted in a manner which in the reasonable good faith judgment of the Board of Directors of BancGroup would so materially adversely impact the economic benefits of the transaction as contemplated by this Agreement so as to render inadvisable the consummation of the Merger.

(b) Each Party shall have obtained any and all other Consents (other than those referred to in Section 8.2(a) of this Agreement), if any, necessary for the preventing of any Default under any Contract or Permit of such Party which, if not obtained or made, is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on such Party. No Consent obtained which is necessary to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby shall be conditioned or restricted in a manner which in the reasonable judgment of the Board of Directors of BancGroup would so materially adversely impact the economic or business benefits of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement so as to render inadvisable the consummation of the Merger.

**8.3 Litigation.** There shall be no pending or threatened Litigation in any court or any pending or threatened proceeding by any governmental commission, board or Agency, with a view to seeking or in which it is sought to restrain or prohibit consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement or in which it is sought to obtain divestiture, rescission or damages in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and no investigation by any Agency shall be pending or threatened which might result in any such suit, action or other proceeding.

**8.4 Registration Statement.** The Registration Statement shall be effective under the 1933 Act and no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall be in effect or threatened; no proceedings for such purpose, or under the proxy rules of the SEC or any bank regulatory authority pursuant to the 1934 Act, with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby, shall be pending before or threatened by the SEC or any bank regulatory authority; and all approvals or authorizations for the offer of BancGroup Common Stock shall have been received or obtained pursuant to any applicable state securities Laws, and no stop order or proceeding with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby shall be pending or threatened under any such state Law.

**8.5 Tax Opinion.** An opinion of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP or such other reputable firm, shall have been received in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Acquired Corporation and BancGroup to the effect that (i) the Merger will constitute a reorganization within the meaning of section 368 of the Code; (ii) no gain or loss will be recognized by BancGroup or Acquired Corporation; (iii) no gain or loss will be recognized by the shareholders of Acquired Corporation who receive shares of BancGroup Common Stock except to the extent of

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any taxable boot received by such persons from BancGroup, and except to the extent of any dividends received from Acquired Corporation prior to the Effective Time; (iv) the basis of the BancGroup Common Stock received in the Merger will be equal to the sum of the basis of the shares of Acquired Corporation common stock exchanged in the Merger and the amount of gain, if any, which was recognized by the exchanging Acquired Corporation shareholder, including any portion treated as a dividend, less the value of taxable boot, if any, received by such shareholder in the Merger; (v) the holding period of the BancGroup Common Stock will include the holding period of the shares of Acquired Corporation common stock exchanged therefore if such shares of Acquired Corporation common stock were capital assets in the hands of the exchanging Acquired Corporation shareholder; and (vi) cash received by an Acquired Corporation shareholder in lieu of a fractional share interest of BancGroup Common Stock will be treated as having been received as a distribution in full payment in exchange for the fractional share interest of BancGroup Common Stock which he or she would otherwise be entitled to receive and will qualify as capital gain or loss (assuming the Acquired Corporation common stock was a capital asset in his or her hands as of the Effective Time).

**ARTICLE 9**

**CONDITIONS TO OBLIGATIONS OF ACQUIRED CORPORATION**

The obligations of Acquired Corporation to cause the transactions contemplated by this Agreement to be consummated shall be subject to the satisfaction on or before the Effective Time of all the following conditions except as Acquired Corporation may waive such conditions in writing:

**9.1 Representations and Warranties.** The representations and warranties of BancGroup set forth herein shall be true and correct at and as of the date hereof and at and as of the Closing Date, as if made at and as of such time (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date, in which case as of such date), provided that no representation or warranty of BancGroup shall be deemed untrue or incorrect for purposes hereunder as a consequence of the existence of any fact, event or circumstance inconsistent with such representation or warranty, unless (i) such fact, event or circumstance was the result of an intentional act of BancGroup or (ii) such fact, event or circumstance, individually or taken together with all other facts, events or circumstances inconsistent with any representation or warranty of BancGroup, has had or would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect on BancGroup, disregarding for these purposes (x) any other qualification or exception for, or reference to, materiality in any such representation or warranty or (y) any other use of the terms material, materially, in all material respects, Material Adverse Change, Material Adverse Effect or similar terms or phrases in any such representation or warranty, and the Acquired Corporation shall have received a certificate, dated the Closing Date, signed on behalf of BancGroup by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of BancGroup, to such effect.

**9.2 Performance of Obligations of BancGroup.** BancGroup shall have performed in all material respects all obligations required to be performed by it at or prior to the Closing Date under this Agreement; and the Acquired Corporation shall have received a certificate, dated the Closing Date, signed on behalf of BancGroup by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of BancGroup, to such effect.

**9.3 Closing Certificate.** In addition to any other deliveries required to be delivered hereunder, Acquired Corporation shall have received a certificate from the President or an Executive Vice President and from the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of BancGroup dated as of the Closing certifying that:

(a) the Board of Directors of BancGroup has duly adopted resolutions approving the substantive terms of this Agreement and authorizing the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and such resolutions have not been amended or modified and remain in full force and effect;

(b) each person executing this Agreement on behalf of BancGroup is an officer of BancGroup holding the office or offices specified therein and the signature of each person set forth on such certificate is his or her genuine signature;

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(c) the certificate of incorporation and bylaws of BancGroup referenced in section 4.4 hereof remain in full force and effect;

**9.4** [Reserved]

**9.5 NYSE Listing.** The shares of BancGroup Common Stock to be issued under this Agreement shall have been approved for listing on the NYSE.

**9.6 Other Matters.** There shall have been furnished to such counsel for Acquired Corporation certified copies of such corporate records of BancGroup and copies of such other documents as such counsel may reasonably have requested for such purpose.

**9.7 Material Events.** There shall have been no determination by the board of directors of Acquired Corporation that the transactions contemplated by this Agreement have become impracticable because of any declaration of a banking moratorium in the United States or a general suspension of trading on the NYSE or any other exchange on which BancGroup Common Stock may be traded.

**9.8 Fairness Opinion.** Acquired Corporation shall have received from Hovde Financial, Inc. a letter, dated as of the date of this Agreement, setting forth its opinion that the Merger Consideration to be received by the shareholders of Acquired Corporation under the terms of this Agreement is fair to them from a financial point of view.

**9.9 Merger Consideration.** BancGroup shall have deposited with the Exchange Agent sufficient cash to pay the Merger Consideration Cash Component.

**ARTICLE 10**

**CONDITIONS TO OBLIGATIONS OF BANCGROUP**

The obligations of BancGroup to cause the transactions contemplated by this Agreement to be consummated shall be subject to the satisfaction on or before the Effective Time of all of the following conditions except as BancGroup may waive such conditions in writing:

**10.1 Representations and Warranties.** The representations and warranties of the Acquired Corporation set forth herein shall be true and correct at and as of the date hereof and at and as of the Closing Date, as if made at and as of such time (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date, in which case as of such date), provided that no representation or warranty of the Acquired Corporation shall be deemed untrue or incorrect for purposes hereunder as a consequence of the existence of any fact, event or circumstance inconsistent with such representation or warranty, unless, (i) such fact, event or circumstance was the result of an intentional act of Acquired Corporation or (ii) such fact, event or circumstance, individually or taken together with all other facts, events or circumstances inconsistent with any representation or warranty of the Acquired Corporation, has had or would reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect on the Acquired Corporation, disregarding for these purposes (x) any other qualification or exception for, or reference to, materiality in any such representation or warranty or (y) any other use of the terms material, materially, in all material respects, Material Adverse Change, Material Adverse Effect or similar terms or phrases in any such representation or warranty, and BancGroup shall have received a certificate, dated the Closing Date, signed on behalf of the Acquired Corporation by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Acquired Corporation, to such effect.

**10.2 Performance of Obligations of the Acquired Corporation.** The Acquired Corporation shall have performed in all material respects all obligations required to be performed by it at or prior to the Closing Date under this Agreement; and BancGroup shall have received a certificate, dated the Closing Date, signed on behalf of the Acquired Corporation by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Acquired Corporation, to such effect.

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**10.3 Closing Certificate.** In addition to any other deliveries required to be delivered hereunder, BancGroup shall have received a certificate from Acquired Corporation executed by the President or Vice President and from the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of Acquired Corporation dated as of the Closing certifying that:

(a) the Board of Directors of Acquired Corporation has duly adopted resolutions approving the substantive terms of this Agreement and authorizing the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and such resolutions have not been amended or modified and remain in full force and effect;

(b) the shareholders of Acquired Corporation have duly adopted resolutions approving the substantive terms of the Merger and the transactions contemplated thereby and such resolutions have not been amended or modified and remain in full force and effect;

(c) each person executing this Agreement on behalf of Acquired Corporation is an officer of Acquired Corporation holding the office or offices specified therein and the signature of each person set forth on such certificate is his or her genuine signature;

(d) the articles of incorporation and bylaws of Acquired Corporation and the Bank referenced in section 5.8 hereof remain in full force and effect and have not been amended or modified since the date hereof;

**10.4 [Reserved]**

**10.5 Controlling Shareholders.** Each outside director and each person listed on Schedule 6.2(e) hereof shall have executed and delivered an agreement satisfactory to BancGroup to the effect that such person shall not make a distribution (within the meaning of Rule 145) of the Common Stock which he receives at the Effective Time and that such Common Stock will be held subject to all applicable provisions of the 1933 Act and the rules and regulations of the SEC thereunder. Acquired Corporation recognizes and acknowledges that BancGroup Common Stock issued to such persons may bear a legend evidencing the agreement described above.

**10.6 Other Matters.** There shall have been furnished to counsel for BancGroup certified copies of such corporate records of Acquired Corporation and copies of such other documents as such counsel may reasonably have requested for such purpose.

**10.7 Material Events.** There shall have been no determination by the board of directors of BancGroup that the transactions contemplated by this Agreement have become impracticable because of any state of war, declaration of a banking moratorium in the United States or general suspension of trading on the NYSE or any exchange on which BancGroup Common Stock may be traded.

**10.8 Landlord's Consents.** Except as set forth on Schedule 10.8, BancGroup shall have received any required consents from any landlords to any property leased by any Acquired Corporation Company.

**ARTICLE 11**

**TERMINATION OF REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES**

All representations and warranties provided in Articles 4 and 5 of this Agreement or in any closing certificate pursuant to Articles 9 and 10 shall terminate and be extinguished at and shall not survive the Effective Time. All covenants, agreements and undertakings required by this Agreement to be performed by any Party hereto following the Effective Time shall survive such Effective Time and be binding upon such Party. If the Merger is not consummated, all representations, warranties, obligations, covenants, or agreements hereunder or in any certificate delivered hereunder relating to the transaction which is not consummated shall be deemed to be terminated or extinguished, except that the last sentence of Section 7.4, and Sections 6.2(c)(ii), 6.2(f)(iv), 7.2, 13.3, Article 11, Article 12, Article 15, any applicable definitions of Article 14 and the Confidentiality Agreement shall survive. Items disclosed in the Exhibits and Schedules attached hereto are incorporated into this Agreement and form a part of the representations, warranties, covenants or agreements to which they relate.

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**ARTICLE 12**

**NOTICES**

All notices or other communications which are required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and sufficient if delivered by hand, by facsimile transmission, by registered or certified mail, postage pre-paid, or by courier or overnight carrier, to the persons at the addresses set forth below (or at such other address as may be provided hereunder), and shall be deemed to have been delivered as of the date so received:

(a) If to Acquired Corporation, to Joseph W. Armaly, Chairman and CEO, Commercial Bankshares, Inc., 1550 Southwest 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Miami, Florida 33144, facsimile (305) 266-2939, with a copy to William Arnhols, Akerman Senterfitt, One Southeast Third Avenue, Suite 2800, Miami, Florida 33131, facsimile (305) 374-5095, or as may otherwise be specified in writing by Acquired Corporation to BancGroup.

(b) If to BancGroup, to Robert E. Lowder, Chairman and CEO, and Sarah H. Moore, Sr. EVP-CFO, Colonial Corporate Campus, 100 Colonial Bank Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36117, facsimile (334) 676-5345, with copies to David B. Byrne, Jr., EVP-General Counsel, Colonial Corporate Campus, 100 Colonial Bank Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36117, facsimile (334) 676-5069, telephone (334) 676-5460 and to Hugh C. Nickson, III, Esq., Miller, Hamilton, Snider & Odom, L.L.C., 100 Colonial Bank Boulevard, Suite B101, Montgomery, Alabama 36117, facsimile (334) 265-4533, telephone (334) 834-5550, email [HughNickson@mhsolaw.com](mailto:HughNickson@mhsolaw.com), or as may otherwise be specified in writing by BancGroup to Acquired Corporation.

**ARTICLE 13**

**AMENDMENT OR TERMINATION**

**13.1 Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended by the mutual consent of BancGroup and Acquired Corporation before or after approval of the transactions contemplated herein by the shareholders of Acquired Corporation.

**13.2 Termination.** This Agreement may be terminated at any time prior to or at the Effective Time whether before or after action thereon by the shareholders of Acquired Corporation, as follows:

(a) by the mutual consent of the respective boards of directors of Acquired Corporation and BancGroup;

(b) by the board of directors of either Party (provided that the terminating Party is not then in material breach of any representation, warranty, covenant, or other agreement contained in this Agreement) in the event of a material breach by the other Party of any representation or warranty contained in this Agreement which cannot be or has not been cured within thirty (30) days after the giving of written notice to the breaching Party of such breach and which breach would provide the non-breaching Party the ability to refuse to consummate the Merger under the standard set forth in section 10.1 of this Agreement in the case of BancGroup and section 9.1 of this Agreement in the case of Acquired Corporation;

(c) by the board of directors of either Party (provided that the terminating Party is not then in material breach of any representation, warranty, covenant, or other agreement contained in this Agreement) in the event of a material breach by the other Party of any covenant or agreement contained in this Agreement which cannot be or has not been cured within thirty (30) days after the giving of written notice to the breaching Party of such breach, or if any of the conditions to the obligations of such Party contained in this Agreement in Article 9 as to Acquired Corporation or Article 10 as to BancGroup shall not have been satisfied in full or waived; or

(d) by the board of directors of either BancGroup or Acquired Corporation if all transactions contemplated by this Agreement shall not have been consummated on or prior to October 31, 2007, if the failure to consummate the transactions provided for in this Agreement on or before such date is not caused by any breach of this Agreement by the Party electing to terminate pursuant to this Section 13.2(d).



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(e) without further action by either Party, upon the execution by Acquired Corporation of an agreement which is legally binding on Acquired Corporation with any third party (other than BancGroup or its Subsidiaries) with respect to an Acquisition Proposal if, in connection therewith, BancGroup will have the right to demand the payment of the sum described in section 6.2(c)(ii) by the Acquired Corporation.

**13.3 Damages.** In the event of termination pursuant to section 13.2, this Agreement shall become void and have no effect other than as set forth in section 6.2(c)(ii) and except as provided in Article 11, and except that Acquired Corporation and BancGroup shall be liable for actual damages (but not indirect, special or consequential damages) for any willful breach of a warranty, representation, covenant or other agreement contained in this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 14**

**DEFINITIONS**

(a) The following terms, which are capitalized in this Agreement, shall have the meanings set forth below for the purpose of this Agreement:

Acquired Corporation	Commercial Bankshares, Inc.
Acquired Corporation Company	Shall mean Acquired Corporation, the Bank, any Subsidiary of Acquired Corporation or the Bank, or any person or entity acquired as a Subsidiary of Acquired Corporation or the Bank in the future and owned by Acquired Corporation or the Bank at the Effective Time.
Acquired Corporation Options	Options respecting the issuance of a maximum of 587,106 shares of Acquired Corporation common stock pursuant to Acquired Corporation's stock option plans.
Acquired Corporation Stock	Shares of common stock, par value \$0.08 per share, of Acquired Corporation.
Acquisition Proposal	Shall mean, with respect to a Party, any tender offer or exchange offer or any proposal for a merger, acquisition of all of the stock or assets of, or other business combination involving such Party or any of its Subsidiaries or the acquisition of a substantial equity interest in, or substantial portion of the assets of, such Party or any of its Subsidiaries.
Agencies	Shall mean, collectively, the Federal Trade Commission, the United States Department of Justice, the Board of the Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, all state regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the Parties and their respective Subsidiaries, HUD, the VA, the FHA, the GNMA, the FNMA, the FHLMC, the NYSE, and the SEC.
Agreement	Shall mean this Agreement and Plan of Merger and the Exhibits and Schedules delivered pursuant hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
Assets	Of a Person shall mean all of the assets, properties, businesses and rights of such Person of every kind, nature, character and description,

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whether real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, accrued or contingent, or otherwise relating to or utilized in such Person's business, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, whether or not carried on the books and records of such Person, and whether or not owned in the name of such Person or any Affiliate of such Person and wherever located.

BancGroup	The Colonial BancGroup, Inc., a Delaware corporation with its principal offices in Montgomery, Alabama.
Bank	Commercial Bank of Florida, a state chartered commercial bank.
Closing	The submission of the certificates of officers, legal opinions and other actions required to be taken in order to consummate the Merger in accordance with this Agreement.
Code	The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
Common Stock	BancGroup's Common Stock authorized and defined in the restated certificate of incorporation of BancGroup, as amended.
Confidentiality Agreement	Confidentiality Agreement executed by BancGroup and Acquired Corporation on or around November 14, 2006.
Consent	Any consent, approval, authorization, clearance, exemption, waiver, or similar affirmation by any Person pursuant to any Contract, Law, Order, or Permit.
Contract	Any written or oral agreement, arrangement, authorization, commitment, contract, indenture, instrument, lease, obligation, plan, practice, restriction, understanding or undertaking of any kind or character, or other document to which any Person is a party or that is binding on any Person or its capital stock, Assets or business.
Default	Shall mean (i) any breach or violation of or default under any Contract, Order or Permit, (ii) any occurrence of any event that with the passage of time or the giving of notice or both would constitute a breach or violation of or default under any Contract, Order or Permit, or (iii) any occurrence of any event that with or without the passage of time or the giving of notice would give rise to a right to terminate or revoke, change the current terms of, or renegotiate, or to accelerate, increase, or impose any Liability under, any Contract, Order or Permit.
DGCL	The Delaware General Corporation Law.
Effective Time	Means the date and time at which the Merger becomes effective as defined in section 2.7 hereof.

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Environmental Laws

Means the laws, regulations and governmental requirements referred to in section 5.23 hereof.

ERISA

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

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Executive Officers	Shall mean the Named Executive Officers as that term is defined by SEC regulation and Schedule 14(a).
Exhibits	A through C, inclusive, shall mean the Exhibits so marked, copies of which are attached to this Agreement. Such Exhibits are hereby incorporated by reference herein and made a part hereof, and may be referred to in this Agreement and any other related instrument or document without being attached hereto.
FBCA	Florida Business Corporation Act
GAAP	Means generally accepted accounting principles applicable to banks and bank holding companies consistently applied during the periods involved.
Knowledge	Means the actual knowledge of the Executive Officers of BancGroup, in the case of knowledge of BancGroup. In the case of Acquired Corporation it means the actual knowledge of the Executive Officers of Acquired Corporation.
Law	Any code, law, ordinance, regulation, reporting or licensing requirement, rule, or statute applicable to a Person or its Assets, Liabilities or business, including, without limitation, those promulgated, interpreted or enforced by any Agency.
Liability	Any direct or indirect, primary or secondary, liability, indebtedness, obligation, penalty, cost or expense (including, without limitation, costs of investigation, collection and defense), deficiency, guaranty or endorsement of or by any Person (other than endorsements of notes, bills, checks, and drafts presented for collection or deposit in the ordinary course of business) of any type, whether accrued, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, matured or unmatured, or otherwise.
Lien	Any conditional sale agreement, default of title, easement, encroachment, encumbrance, hypothecation, infringement, lien, mortgage, pledge, reservation, restriction, security interest, title retention or other security arrangement, or any adverse right or interest, charge, or claim of any nature whatsoever of, on, or with respect to any property or property interest, other than (i) Liens for current property Taxes not yet due and payable, (ii) for depository institution Subsidiaries of a Party, pledges to secure deposits and other Liens incurred in the ordinary course of the banking business, (iii) Liens in the form of easements and restrictive covenants on real property which do not materially adversely affect the use of such property by the current owner thereof, and (iv) Liens which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on a Party.
Litigation	Any action, arbitration, complaint, criminal prosecution, governmental or other examination or investigation, hearing, inquiry, administrative or other proceeding but shall not include regular,

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periodic examinations of depository institutions and their Affiliates by Regulatory Authorities, relating to or affecting a Party, its business, its Assets (including Contracts related to it), or the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

**Loan Property**

Any property owned by the Party in question or by any of its Subsidiaries or in which such Party or Subsidiary holds a security interest, and, where required by the context, includes the owner or operator of such property, but only with respect to such property.

**Loss**

Any and all direct or indirect payments, obligations, recoveries, deficiencies, fines, penalties, interest, assessments, losses, diminution in the value of Assets, damages, punitive, exemplary or consequential damages (including, but not limited to, lost income and profits and interruptions of business), liabilities, costs, expenses (including without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, and consultant's fees and other costs of defense or investigation), and interest on any amount payable to a third party as a result of the foregoing.

**Material**

For purposes of this Agreement shall be determined in light of the facts and circumstances of the matter in question; provided that any specific monetary amount stated in this Agreement shall determine materiality in that instance.

**Material Adverse Effect**

On a Party shall mean an event, change or occurrence which has a material adverse impact on (i) the financial position, Assets, business, or results of operations of such Party and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or (ii) the ability of such Party to perform its obligations under this Agreement or to consummate the Merger or the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement, provided that material adverse effect shall not be deemed to include the impact of commercially reasonable: (a) expenses incurred, accrued or to be incurred in connection with the transaction contemplated hereby (b) changes in banking and similar laws of general applicability or interpretations thereof by courts or governmental authorities, (c) changes in generally accepted accounting principles or regulatory accounting principles generally applicable to banks and their holding companies, (d) actions and omissions of a Party (or any of its Subsidiaries) taken with the prior informed consent of the other Party in contemplation of the transactions contemplated hereby, (e) the Merger (including the announcement thereof) and compliance with the provisions of this Agreement on the operating performance of the Parties, (f) changes in conditions in the U.S. or global economy or capital or financial markets generally, or (g) acts of war, sabotage or terrorism, or any escalation or worsening of any such acts of war, sabotage or terrorism threatened or underway as of the date of this Agreement.

**Merger**

The merger of Acquired Corporation with BancGroup as contemplated in this Agreement.

**Merger Consideration**

The consideration as provided in Section 3.1(a).

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NYSE	The New York Stock Exchange.
Order	Any administrative decision or award, decree, injunction, judgment, order, quasi-judicial decision or award, ruling, or writ of any federal, state, local or foreign or other court, arbitrator, mediator, tribunal, administrative agency or Agency.
Party	Shall mean Acquired Corporation or BancGroup, and Parties shall mean both Acquired Corporation and BancGroup.
Permit	Any federal, state, local, and foreign governmental approval, authorization, certificate, easement, filing, franchise, license, notice, permit, or right to which any Person is a party or that is or may be binding upon or inure to the benefit of any Person or its securities, Assets or business.
Person	A natural person or any legal, commercial or governmental entity, such as, but not limited to, a corporation, general partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability company, trust, business association, group acting in concert, or any person acting in a representative capacity.
Proxy Statement	The proxy statement used by Acquired Corporation to solicit the approval of its shareholders of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, which shall include the prospectus of BancGroup relating to the issuance of the BancGroup Common Stock to the shareholders of Acquired Corporation.
Registration Statement	The registration statement on Form S-4, or such other appropriate form, to be filed with the SEC by BancGroup, to register the shares of BancGroup Common Stock offered to shareholders of Acquired Corporation pursuant to this Agreement, including the Proxy Statement.
Resulting Corporation	BancGroup, as the surviving corporation resulting from the Merger.
SEC	United States Securities and Exchange Commission.
Shareholders Meeting	The special meeting of shareholders of Acquired Corporation called to approve the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.
Significant Subsidiaries	Shall have the same definition as it does in Section 1-02 of Regulation S-X under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
Subsidiaries	Shall mean all those corporations, banks, associations, or other entities of which the entity in question owns or controls 5% or more of the outstanding equity securities either directly or through an unbroken chain of entities as to each of which 5% or more of the outstanding equity securities is owned directly or indirectly by its parent; provided, however, there shall not be

included any such entity acquired through foreclosure or any such entity the equity securities of which are owned or controlled in a fiduciary capacity.

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Tax or Taxes Means any federal, state, county, local, foreign, and other taxes, assessments, charges, fares, and impositions, including interest and penalties thereon or with respect thereto.

1933 Act The Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

1934 Act The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

**ARTICLE 15**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**15.1 Expenses.** (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section 15.1, each of the Parties shall bear and pay all direct costs and expenses incurred by it or on its behalf in connection with the transactions contemplated hereunder, including filing, registration and application fees, printing fees, and fees and expenses of its own financial or other consultants, investment bankers, accountants, and counsel, except that BancGroup shall bear and pay the filing fees payable in connection with any Agency approvals and the Registration Statement and printing costs incurred in connection with the printing of the Registration Statement.

(b) Nothing contained in this Section 15.1 shall constitute or shall be deemed to constitute liquidated damages for the willful breach by a Party of the terms of this Agreement or otherwise limit the rights of the nonbreaching Party.

**15.2 Benefit and Assignment.** Except as expressly contemplated hereby, neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests, or obligations hereunder shall be assigned by any Party hereto (whether by operation of Law or otherwise) without the prior written consent of the other Party. Subject to the preceding sentence, this Agreement will be binding upon, inure to the benefit of, and be enforceable by, the Parties and their respective successors and assigns.

**15.3 Governing Law.** Except to the extent the Laws of the State of Delaware apply to the Merger, this Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with the Laws of the State of Florida without regard to any conflict of Laws.

**15.4 Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to constitute an original. Each such counterpart shall become effective when one counterpart has been signed by each Party thereto.

**15.5 Headings.** The headings of the various articles and sections of this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not be deemed a part of this Agreement or considered in construing the provisions thereof.

**15.6 Severability.** Any term or provision of this Agreement that is prohibited or unenforceable in any jurisdiction shall, as to such jurisdiction, be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition or unenforceability without invalidating the remaining terms and provisions thereof or affecting the validity or enforceability of such provision in any other jurisdiction, and if any term or provision of this Agreement is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, voidable, invalid or unenforceable in any given circumstance or situation, then all other terms and provisions, being severable, shall remain in full force and effect in such circumstance or situation and the term or provision shall remain valid and in effect in any other circumstances or situation, except if such omitted term or provision would so materially adversely impact the economic benefits of the transaction to a Party as contemplated by this Agreement so as to render inadvisable the consummation of the Merger.

**15.7 Construction.** Use of the masculine pronoun herein shall be deemed to refer to the feminine and neuter genders and the use of singular references shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa, as appropriate. No inference in favor of or against any Party shall be drawn from the fact that such Party or such Party's counsel has drafted any portion of this Agreement.



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**15.8 Return of Information.** In the event of termination of this Agreement prior to the Effective Time, each Party shall return to the other, without retaining copies thereof, all confidential or non-public documents, work papers and other materials obtained from the other Party in connection with the transactions contemplated in this Agreement and shall keep such information confidential, not disclose such information to any other person or entity, and not use such information in connection with its business.

**15.9 Equitable Remedies.** The parties hereto agree that, in the event of a breach of this Agreement by either Party, the other Party may be without an adequate remedy at law owing to the unique nature of the contemplated transactions. In recognition thereof, in addition to (and not in lieu of) any remedies at law that may be available to the non-breaching Party, the non-breaching Party shall be entitled to obtain equitable relief, including the remedies of specific performance and injunction, in the event of a breach of this Agreement by the other Party, and no attempt on the part of the non-breaching Party to obtain such equitable relief shall be deemed to constitute an election of remedies by the non-breaching Party that would preclude the non-breaching Party from obtaining any remedies at law to which it would otherwise be entitled.

**15.10 Attorneys Fees.** If any Party hereto shall bring an action at law or in equity to enforce its rights under this Agreement (including an action based upon a misrepresentation or the breach of any warranty, covenant, agreement or obligation contained herein), the prevailing Party in such action shall be entitled to recover from the other Party its costs and expenses incurred in connection with such action (including fees, disbursements and expenses of attorneys and costs of investigation).

**15.11 No Waiver.** No failure, delay or omission of or by any Party in exercising any right, power or remedy upon any breach or Default of any other Party shall impair any such rights, powers or remedies of the Party not in breach or Default, nor shall it be construed to be a waiver of any such right, power or remedy, or an acquiescence in any similar breach or Default; nor shall any waiver of any single breach or Default be deemed a waiver of any other breach or default theretofore or thereafter occurring. Any waiver, permit, consent or approval of any kind or character on the part of any Party of any provisions of this Agreement must be in writing and be executed by the Parties to this Agreement and shall be effective only to the extent specifically set forth in such writing.

**15.12 Remedies Cumulative.** All remedies provided in this Agreement, by law or otherwise, shall be cumulative and not alternative.

**15.13 Entire Contract.** This Agreement, the Confidentiality Agreement and the documents and instruments referred to herein constitute the entire contract between the parties to this Agreement and supersede all other understandings with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement

[Signatures are on next page.]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Acquired Corporation and BancGroup have caused this Agreement to be signed by their respective duly authorized officers as of the date first above written.

ATTEST:

COMMERCIAL BANKSHARES, INC.

By: /s/ BRUCE P. STEINBERGER  
Its: **Bruce P. Steinberger**  
(CORPORATE SEAL) **President and Secretary**

By: /s/ JOSEPH W. ARMALY  
Its: **Joseph W. Armaly**  
**Chairman and CEO**

ATTEST:

THE COLONIAL BANCGROUP, INC.

By: /s/ DAVID B. BYRNE, JR.  
Its: **David B. Byrne, Jr.**  
(CORPORATE SEAL) **Secretary**

By: /s/ ROBERT E. LOWDER  
Its: **Robert E. Lowder**  
**Chairman and CEO**

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**APPENDIX B**

January 22, 2007

Board of Directors

Commercial Bankshares, Inc.

1550 South West 57th Avenue

Miami, FL 33144

Dear Members of the Board:

We understand that Commercial Bankshares, Inc., a Florida corporation (the Company), and The Colonial BancGroup, a Delaware corporation (Colonial), are about to enter into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Agreement), to be dated January 22, 2007, pursuant to which the Company will merge with and into Colonial, with Colonial as the surviving entity (the Merger). In connection with the Merger, except as otherwise provided for in the Agreement and subject to certain restrictions and limitations contained therein, at the Effective Time (as defined in the Agreement), each issued and outstanding share of common stock of the Company (the Company Common Stock) shall be converted into the right to receive (i) \$49.00, (ii) 2.0214 shares of common stock of Colonial (the Colonial Common Stock), or (iii) a combination thereof (collectively, the Merger Consideration). In connection with the Merger and the Agreement, you have requested our opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the Merger Consideration to be paid to the shareholders of the Company.

Hovde Financial, Inc. (Hovde), as part of its investment banking business, is continually engaged in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, negotiated underwritings, competitive bidding, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for estate, corporate and other purposes.

We were retained by the Company to act as its financial advisor in connection with the Agreement and the Merger. We will receive compensation from the Company in connection with our services, all or a significant portion of which is contingent upon the consummation of the Merger. Additionally, the Company has agreed to indemnify us for certain liabilities arising out of our engagement.

During the course of our engagement and for the purposes of the opinion set forth herein, we have:

- (i) reviewed the Agreement and all attachments thereto;
- (ii) reviewed certain historical publicly available business and financial information concerning the Company and Colonial;
- (iii) reviewed certain internal financial statements and other financial and operating data concerning the Company;
- (iv) analyzed certain financial projections prepared by the management of the Company;
- (v) held discussions with members of the senior managements of the Company and Colonial for the purpose of reviewing the future prospects of the Company and Colonial, including financial forecasts related to the respective businesses, earnings, assets, liabilities and the amount and timing of cost savings (the Synergies) expected to be achieved as a result of the Merger;

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(vi) reviewed historical market prices and trading volumes of Colonial Common Stock;

(vii) reviewed the terms of recent merger and acquisition transactions, to the extent publicly available, involving banks and bank holding companies that we considered relevant;

(viii) evaluated the pro forma ownership of Colonial Common Stock by the holders of the Company Common Stock relative to the *pro forma* contribution of the Company's assets, liabilities, equity and earnings to the combined company;

(ix) analyzed the pro forma impact of the Merger on the combined company's earnings per share, consolidated capitalization and financial ratios; and

(x) performed such other analyses and considered such other factors as we have deemed appropriate.

We also took into account our assessment of general economic, market and financial conditions and our experience in other transactions as well as our knowledge of the banking industry and our general experience in securities valuations.

In rendering this opinion, we have assumed, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information and representations contained in the materials provided to us by the Company and Colonial and in the discussions with the managements of the Company and Colonial. In that regard, we have assumed that the financial forecasts, including, without limitation, the synergies and projections regarding under-performing and nonperforming assets and net charge-offs have been reasonably prepared on a basis reflecting the best currently available information and judgments and estimates of the Company and Colonial and that such forecasts will be realized in the amounts and at the times contemplated thereby. We are not experts in the evaluation of loan and lease portfolios for purposes of assessing the adequacy of the allowances for losses with respect thereto and have assumed that such allowances made by the subsidiaries of the Company and Colonial are in the aggregate adequate to cover such losses. We were not retained to and did not conduct a physical inspection of any of the properties or facilities of the Company, Colonial or their respective subsidiaries. In addition, we have not reviewed individual credit files nor have we made an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets and liabilities of the Company, Colonial or any of their respective subsidiaries and we were not furnished with any such evaluations or appraisals.

We have assumed that the Merger will be consummated substantially in accordance with the terms set forth in the Agreement. We have further assumed that the Merger will be accounted for as a purchase under generally accepted accounting principles. We have assumed that the Merger is, and will be, in compliance with all laws and regulations that are applicable to the Company, Colonial and their subsidiaries. In rendering this opinion, we have assumed that there are no factors that would impede any necessary regulatory or governmental approval of the Merger and we have further assumed that, in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory and governmental approvals, no restriction will be imposed on Colonial or the surviving corporations that would have a material adverse effect on the surviving corporations or the contemplated benefits of the Merger. We have also assumed that no change in applicable law or regulation would occur that would cause a material adverse change in the prospects or operations of Colonial or any of the surviving corporations after the Merger.

Our opinion is based solely upon the information available to us and the economic, market and other circumstances, as they exist as of the date hereof. Events occurring and information that becomes available after the date hereof could materially affect the assumptions and analyses used in preparing this opinion. We have not undertaken to reaffirm or revise this opinion or otherwise comment upon any events occurring or information that becomes available after the date hereof, except as otherwise agreed in our engagement letter.

We are not expressing any opinion herein as to the prices at which Colonial Common Stock issued in the Merger may trade if and when they are issued or at any future time, nor does our opinion constitute a

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recommendation to any holder of the Company Common Stock as to how such holder should vote with respect to the Agreement at any meeting of holders of the Company Common Stock.

This letter is solely for the information of the Board of Directors of the Company and is not to be used, circulated, quoted or otherwise referred to for any other purpose, nor is it to be filed with, included in or referred to in whole or in part in any registration statement, proxy statement or any other document, except in each case in accordance with our prior written consent which shall not be unreasonably withheld; provided, however, that we hereby consent to the inclusion and reference to this letter in any registration statement, proxy statement, information statement or tender offer document to be delivered to the shareholders of the Company in connection with the Merger if and only if this letter is quoted in full or attached as an exhibit to such document and this letter has not been withdrawn prior to the date of such document.

Subject to the foregoing and based on our experience as investment bankers, our activities and assumptions as described above, and other factors we have deemed relevant, we are of the opinion as of the date hereof that the Merger Consideration to be paid to the shareholders of the Company pursuant to the Agreement is fair, from a financial point of view.

Sincerely,