

GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/

Form PREM14A

July 11, 2005

Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A**

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

**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**(Amendment No. \_\_)**

Filed by the Registrant  Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

**Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.**

---

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

---

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share

---

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

61,749

---

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

\$24.00 (per share price to be paid in the transaction)

---

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

\$1,481,976

---

(5) Total fee paid:

\$175

---

- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

---

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

---

(3) Filing Party:

---

(4) Date Filed:

---

**Table of Contents**

**GUARANTY BANCSHARES, INC.**

**100 W. Arkansas**

**Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455**

**(903) 572-9881**

**, 2005**

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the special meeting of shareholders of Guaranty Bancshares, Inc. ( Guaranty ) on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005 beginning at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m., local time, to be held at the main office of Guaranty Bond Bank at 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

At the special meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote on a proposal to approve an Agreement and Plan of Merger which provides for the merger of GB Facilitation, Inc., a newly formed, wholly-owned subsidiary of Guaranty, with and into Guaranty, with Guaranty as the surviving entity in what is commonly referred to as a going private transaction. The purpose of the merger is to reduce our number of shareholders of record to fewer than 300, as required for the termination of our registration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ) and thereby eliminate the burdens and expense required to comply with the reporting and related requirements under those laws.

If the merger agreement is approved and the merger is subsequently completed, shareholders owning fewer than 600 shares of Guaranty common stock (other than shareholders who properly exercise their rights as dissenting shareholders) will receive \$24.00 in cash for each share they own as of the effective time of the merger. All other shares will remain outstanding and be unaffected by the merger.

At the special meeting, you will also be asked to consider and vote on a proposal to approve an amendment to Guaranty s Articles of Incorporation. The amendment would grant us a right of first refusal with respect to certain future transfers of shares of our common stock. This amendment is intended help us control any potential future increases in the number of our record shareholders and enable us to avoid or delay again becoming subject to the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act. Approval of the amendment is contingent upon shareholder approval of the merger agreement and completion of the merger.

Our board of directors believes that the merger agreement and the amendment are in the best interests of Guaranty and our shareholders and unanimously recommends that you vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of the amendment. The approval of the merger agreement and the amendment both require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please complete and return the enclosed proxy card. If you sign, date and return your proxy card without indicating how you want to vote, your proxy will be counted as a vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of the amendment.

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

The enclosed proxy statement gives you detailed information about the special meeting, the merger, the amendment and related matters. We urge you to carefully read the enclosed proxy statement, including the considerations discussed under **Special Factors**, beginning on page 10 and the appendices to the proxy statement, which include the merger agreement and the amendment. You may also obtain information about Guaranty from documents we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. See **Where You Can Find More Information** on page 54.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for your continued interest in Guaranty.

Sincerely,

Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.

Chairman of the Board and

Chief Executive Officer



Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.

Chairman of the Board and

Chief Executive Officer

Mt. Pleasant, Texas

, 2005

**Your Vote Is Very Important**

You are cordially invited to attend the special meeting in person. Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please complete, date and sign the enclosed proxy and mail it promptly in the enclosed envelope. You may revoke your proxy in the manner described in the accompanying proxy statement at any time before it is voted at the special meeting. If you attend the special meeting, you may vote in person if you wish, even if you have previously returned your proxy card.

**The board of directors of Guaranty recommends that you vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of the amendment.**

**Table of Contents**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**

**SHAREHOLDERS OF**

**GUARANTY BANCSHARES, INC.**

**TO BE HELD ON \_\_\_\_\_, 2005**

This proxy statement is being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the board of directors of Guaranty Bancshares, Inc. ( Guaranty ) for use at the special meeting of shareholders to be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005 at the main office of Guaranty Bond Bank, 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas beginning at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m., local time.

At the special meeting, shareholders of record as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005 will vote on (1) a proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 13, 2005, by and between Guaranty and GB Facilitation, Inc. ( merger subsidiary ), a newly-formed subsidiary of Guaranty organized for the sole purpose of facilitating the proposed transaction and (2) a proposal to approve an amendment to Guaranty s Articles of Incorporation. The merger agreement is attached to this proxy statement as *Appendix A* and the full text of the proposed amendment is attached to this proxy statement as *Appendix B*.

Pursuant to the merger agreement, merger subsidiary will merge with and into Guaranty, with Guaranty continuing as the surviving corporation. If shareholders approve the merger agreement and the merger is subsequently completed, shareholders owning fewer than 600 shares of Guaranty common stock, in the aggregate, whether of record or in street name (other than shareholders who properly exercise their rights as dissenting shareholders), will receive \$24.00 in cash for each share they own as of the effective time of the merger. All other shares will remain outstanding and be unaffected by the merger. After the merger, we anticipate that we will have fewer than 300 shareholders of record. As a result, we will be able to terminate our registration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), and thereby eliminate the significant expense required to comply with the periodic reporting and related requirements of those laws.

The proposed amendment to our Articles of Incorporation would prohibit certain future transfers of Guaranty common stock unless the transferee first offers to sell the shares he or she would like to transfer to Guaranty. The purpose of the amendment is to help us control any potential future increases in the number of our record shareholders to enable us to avoid or delay again becoming subject to the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act. The proposed amendment is contingent on shareholder approval of the merger agreement and completion of the merger.

The merger cannot occur unless the merger agreement is approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock. The amendment must also be approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock.

Please see *Where You Can Find More Information* on page 54 for additional information about Guaranty on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ).



**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of this transaction, passed upon the merits or fairness of this transaction, or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of the information contained in this proxy statement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

Proxy Statement dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2005 and first mailed to Guaranty shareholders

on or about \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

**Table of Contents**

**HOW TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This proxy statement incorporates important business and financial information about Guaranty from documents filed with the SEC that have not been included in or delivered with this document. This information is described on page 54 under **Where You Can Find More Information**. You can obtain free copies of this information by writing or calling:

**Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.**

**100 W. Arkansas**

**Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455**

**Attention: Clifton A. Payne, Chief Financial Officer**

**Telephone (903) 572-9881**

**PLEASE NOTE**

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with any information other than the information included in this document and the documents to which we refer you. If someone provides you with other information, please do not rely on it as being authorized by us.

Our common stock is not a deposit or bank account and is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The words **we**, **our**, and **us**, as used in this proxy statement, refer to Guaranty and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, collectively, unless the context indicates otherwise.

**This proxy statement has been prepared as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005. There may be changes in the affairs of Guaranty since that date which are not reflected in this document.**

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>SUMMARY TERM SHEET</u>	1
<u>The Companies</u>	1
<u>The Merger Agreement</u>	1
<u>What You will Receive in the Merger</u>	1
<u>Effects of the Merger on Shareholders</u>	2
<u>Effects of the Merger on Guaranty</u>	2
<u>Conditions to the Completion of the Merger</u>	3
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	3
<u>Reasons for the Merger</u>	3
<u>Fairness of the Transaction</u>	4
<u>Appraisal Rights of Shareholders</u>	4
<u>Proposed Amendment to Articles of Incorporation</u>	4
<u>Special Meeting of Shareholders</u>	5
<u>Shares Entitled to Vote; Quorum and Vote Required</u>	5
<u>Effective Time of the Merger</u>	5
<u>Financing of the Merger</u>	5
<u>A WARNING ABOUT FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	6
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND THE MERGER</u>	7
<u>SPECIAL FACTORS</u>	10
<u>Purpose and Reasons for the Merger</u>	10
<u>Alternatives Considered</u>	12
<u>Background of the Merger</u>	13
<u>Recommendation of the Board of Directors; Fairness of the Merger Proposal</u>	16
<u>Determination of Fairness by Merger Subsidiary and Filing Persons</u>	19
<u>Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor</u>	20
<u>Effects of the Merger on Guaranty</u>	23
<u>Effects of the Merger on Shareholders Generally</u>	25
<u>Effects of the Merger on Affiliated Shareholders</u>	27
<u>Examples of Merger Results</u>	27
<u>Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger</u>	28
<u>Conduct of Guaranty's Business After the Merger</u>	28
<u>Fees and Expenses</u>	28
<u>Anticipated Accounting Treatment</u>	29
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	29
<u>Regulatory Requirements</u>	31
<u>SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA</u>	32
<u>CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	34
<u>UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	35
<u>THE SPECIAL MEETING</u>	39
<u>Purpose</u>	39
<u>Date, Place and Time of Special Meeting</u>	39

**Table of Contents**

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Shares Entitled to Vote; Quorum and Vote Required</u>	39
<u>Voting Procedures and Revocation of Proxies</u>	40
<u>Attending the Special Meeting</u>	40
<u>Solicitation of Proxies and Expenses</u>	40
<b><u>PROPOSAL I: APPROVAL OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT</u></b>	41
<u>Parties to the Merger</u>	41
<u>Structure of the Merger</u>	41
<u>Conversion of Shares in the Merger</u>	41
<u>Effect on Outstanding Options</u>	43
<u>Effective Time of the Merger</u>	43
<u>Exchange of Shares</u>	43
<u>Termination of Exchange Act Registration</u>	43
<u>Source of Funds and Expenses</u>	44
<u>Conditions to the Completion of the Merger</u>	44
<u>Termination of Merger Agreement</u>	44
<u>Dissenters' Rights of Appraisal</u>	45
<b><u>PROPOSAL II: APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION</u></b>	48
<b><u>INFORMATION ABOUT GUARANTY AND ITS AFFILIATES</u></b>	49
<u>Directors and Executive Officers of Guaranty</u>	49
<u>Market for Common Stock and Dividends</u>	51
<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management</u>	52
<u>Guaranty Common Stock Purchase and Sale Information</u>	53
<b><u>OTHER MATTERS</u></b>	54
<b><u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u></b>	54
<u>Appendix A:</u>	
<u>Agreement and Plan of Merger</u>	A-1
<u>Appendix B:</u>	
<u>Proposed Amendment to Articles of Incorporation</u>	B-1
<u>Appendix C:</u>	
<u>Opinion of Hofer &amp; Arnett, Incorporated</u>	C-1
<u>Appendix D:</u>	
<u>Provisions of the Texas Business Corporation Act Relating to Appraisal Rights of Dissenting Shareholders</u>	D-1

**Table of Contents**

**SUMMARY TERM SHEET**

*The following summary term sheet, together with the Questions and Answers About the Special Meeting and the Merger following this summary term sheet, highlight selected information from this proxy statement and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We urge you to carefully read this entire document and the other documents that we refer to in this document. These documents will give you a more complete description of the transaction that we are proposing. We have included page references in this summary to direct you to other places in this proxy statement where you can find a more complete description of the documents that we have summarized.*

**The Companies**

Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.

100 W. Arkansas

Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

Guaranty, a Texas corporation, is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Guaranty Bond Bank, formally known as Guaranty Bank (the Bank), Guaranty offers a broad range of financial products and services to small and medium-sized businesses and consumers through twelve banking locations in the Texas communities of Mt. Pleasant (two offices), Bogata, Commerce, Ft. Stockton, Mount Vernon, Paris, Pittsburg, Sulphur Springs, Talco and Texarkana (two offices). At March 31, 2005, Guaranty had, on a consolidated basis, total assets of \$552.5 million, total deposits of \$444.0 million and shareholders equity of \$38.5 million.

GB Facilitation, Inc.

100 W. Arkansas

Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

The merger subsidiary is a newly-formed Texas corporation organized as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Guaranty for the sole purpose of facilitating the merger. It has engaged in no business activities or operations other than those incident to its formation.

**The Merger Agreement (page 41)**

*We have attached the merger agreement to this document as **Appendix A**. Please read the merger agreement. It is the legal document that governs the merger.*

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

We propose a merger whereby the merger subsidiary will merge with and into Guaranty. After the merger, we expect our business and operations to continue as they are currently being conducted. We will continue to operate as a bank holding company and the parent corporation for the Bank, but will no longer file reports with the SEC. We expect to complete the merger in the third quarter of 2005.

### **What You Will Receive in the Merger (page 41)**

If the merger is completed, shareholders holding fewer than 600 shares of Guaranty common stock in the aggregate, whether of record or in street name, will receive \$24.00 in cash for each share they own as of the effective time of the merger. Shareholders holding 600 or more shares of Guaranty common stock will continue to hold their outstanding shares of Guaranty common stock and will not be entitled to receive any cash payment from us upon completion of the merger.

For purposes of the merger, we may, in our sole discretion, aggregate the outstanding shares held (whether of record or beneficially owned) by any person or persons that we determine to constitute a single holder for purposes of determining the number of shares owned by such holder. Further, under the Exchange Act, securities registered in substantially similar names where we have reason to believe, because of the address or other

**Table of Contents**

indications, that such names represent the same person, may be included as held of record as one person. Accordingly, you may hold shares in street name and in record form, and such shares would be combined for purposes of determining the number of shares you own.

If you are the holder of fewer than 600 shares of our common stock, you will have to surrender your stock certificates representing such shares in order to receive the cash consideration for your shares. Do not send in your certificates until you receive written instructions regarding the certificate exchange process on or after the completion of the merger.

**Effects of the Merger on Shareholders (pages 25 and 27)**

The merger will have various effects on our shareholders, including:

For shareholders who retain their shares in the merger:

continued ownership of our common stock;

decreased liquidity in our common stock;

decreased access to publicly available information about Guaranty;

a reduction in book value as of March 31, 2005 on a pro forma basis;

an increase in earnings per share for year ended December 31, 2004 on a pro forma basis and no effect on earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2005 on a pro forma basis; and

a slight increase in their respective percentage ownership of our common stock.

For shareholders receiving cash in the merger:

receipt of \$24.00 per share in cash;

loss of their equity and voting interest in Guaranty;

federal income tax liability for any cash received in the merger; and

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

liquidation of their ownership interest in Guaranty without incurring brokerage costs.

Additional effects of the merger on affiliated shareholders (directors, executive officers and 10% or greater shareholders):

elimination of individual reporting obligations under federal securities laws; and

elimination of a "safe harbor" for dispositions of their shares under federal securities laws.

### Effects of the Merger on Guaranty (page 23)

As a result of the merger:

we will no longer be classified as a public company and will suspend indefinitely our filing of annual and periodic reports and proxy statements with the SEC;

our common stock will no longer be quoted on the Nasdaq Stock Market or any other exchange;

the number of record shareholders, measured as of May 25, 2005, will be reduced from approximately 430 to approximately 184, and the number of outstanding shares of our common stock will decrease from 2,826,012 to approximately 2,764,263;

the percentage of ownership of our common stock beneficially held by executive officers and directors (12 persons) as a group as of May 25, 2005, will increase from 33.39% to approximately 34.12%;

diluted earnings per share of our common stock for the year ended December 31, 2004 would increase by approximately 5.65% from \$1.24 on a historical basis to approximately \$1.31 on a pro forma basis and diluted earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2005 of \$0.33 will remain unchanged on a pro forma basis;



## **Table of Contents**

total shareholders' equity as of March 31, 2005 would be reduced from approximately \$38.5 million on a historical basis to approximately \$37.0 million on a pro forma basis, assuming 61,749 shares are cashed out in the merger;

the book value per share of our common stock as of March 31, 2005 would be reduced from \$13.20 per share on a historical basis to approximately \$12.94 per share on a pro forma basis, assuming 61,749 shares are cashed out in the merger; and

the reduction in our shareholders' equity described above will cause a corresponding decrease in our regulatory capital ratios. Assuming 61,749 shares are cashed out in the merger, our leverage capital ratio would decrease from 8.62% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 8.35% on a pro forma basis; our tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets ratio would be reduced from 12.60% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 12.23% on a pro forma basis; and our total risk-based capital ratio would decrease from 13.78% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 13.42% on a pro forma basis.

## **Conditions to the Completion of the Merger (page 44)**

The completion of the merger depends upon the satisfaction of a number of conditions, unless waived, including:

approval of the merger agreement by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock;

all of the representations and warranties made in the merger agreement must be true and correct in all material respects as of the effective time of the merger;

absence of pending or threatened litigation regarding the merger; and

that the aggregate number of shares to be cashed out in the merger, plus the number of shares held by shareholders who delivered their notice to exercise their rights to dissent from the merger pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Business Corporation Act ( TBCA ), does not exceed 100,000 shares.

## **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences (page 29)**

The receipt of cash in the merger will be taxable for United States federal income tax purposes. You will be treated as either having sold your shares of our common stock for the cash received or as having received the cash as a dividend. In general, your receipt of cash in exchange for your shares of our common stock will be treated as a sale or exchange and you will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the cash received less your adjusted tax basis of your shares exchanged for such cash if you actually and constructively own no shares of our common stock immediately after the exchange. If you actually or constructively own shares of our common stock after the exchange, your receipt of cash in exchange for your shares of our common stock may be taxed as a dividend. Shareholders who do not receive cash should not recognize any gain or loss on continuing to hold their shares of Guaranty common stock as a result of the merger.

For a more complete description of the United States federal income tax consequences to you as a result of the merger, please read the discussion under Special Factors Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.

**Reasons for the Merger (page 10)**

Our principal reasons for effecting the merger are:

the direct and indirect cost savings of approximately \$350,000 per year that we expect to experience as a result of the deregistration of our common stock under the Exchange Act; and

our belief that our shareholders have not benefited proportionately from the costs relating to the registration of our common stock, principally as a result of the thin trading market for our stock.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Fairness of the Transaction (page 16)**

We believe that the merger is fair to our unaffiliated shareholders who will receive cash in the merger and to our unaffiliated and affiliated shareholders who will retain their shares. Our Board of Directors has approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby. The Board's opinion is based on several factors, which are summarized beginning on page 16. These factors include:

*Independent Valuation:* According to an independent valuation prepared by Hoefler & Arnett, Incorporated ( Hoefler & Arnett ), the fair value of our common stock as of May 17, 2005 was \$24.00 per share.

*Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor:* Hoefler & Arnett has delivered its opinion to our Board of Directors that the \$24.00 per share price to be paid in the merger is fair, from a financial point of view, to our shareholders, both those who will receive cash in the merger and those who will retain their shares in the merger. A copy of the opinion is attached as *Appendix C*. See *Special Factors Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor* on page 20 for additional information.

*Historical Market Prices of Guaranty Common Stock:* The low and high sales prices of our common stock reported by the Nasdaq Stock Market over the past two years have ranged from \$16.40 to \$24.00 per share, with trades during the first six months of 2005 ranging from \$17.50 to \$23.38. See *Information about Guaranty and its Affiliates Guaranty Common Stock Purchase and Sale Information* on page 53, and *Market for Common Stock and Dividends* on page 51 for more specific information regarding prices at which our shares have been sold.

*Premium to Book Value:* The price per share to be paid in the merger reflects a multiple of 1.82 times our March 31, 2005 book value per share, representing a 81.82% premium over book value.

*Going Concern Value:* The price per share to be paid in the merger reflects Guaranty as a going concern and was not based on an amount that might be realized in a sale of 100% of our stock, since the merger will not result in a change in control of Guaranty.

*Earnings Multiple:* The price per share to be paid in the merger reflects a multiple of 19.35 times our earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2004.

*Liquidity Event:* The merger will allow our shareholders owning fewer than 600 shares to liquidate their holdings without incurring brokerage costs. The Board believes this provides a benefit to our shareholders, particularly given the limited trading volume for our shares.

### **Appraisal Rights of Shareholders (page 45)**

As a shareholder of Guaranty, under the provisions of the TBCA you have the right to dissent from the merger. If the merger is approved by the shareholders and consummated, any shareholder who properly perfects his right to dissent to the merger will be entitled to receive an amount of cash equal to the fair value of his or her shares rather than the consideration provided by the merger agreement.

### **Proposed Amendment to Articles of Incorporation (page 48)**

The proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation is designed to grant us a right to purchase the shares of our common stock that a shareholder desires to transfer if that transfer would result in an increase in the number of our record shareholders. The amendment is intended to help us control any potential future increases in the number of our record shareholders and enable us to avoid or delay again becoming subject to the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act.

The amendment would be effective when Guaranty files articles of amendment with the Secretary of State of Texas. In accordance with Texas law, the restriction imposed by the amendment would not be binding with respect to shares issued before shareholder approval of the amendment unless the shareholder voted for approval of the amendment. We intend to file the articles of amendment promptly following completion of the merger.

## **Table of Contents**

The amendment is contingent on shareholder approval of the merger agreement and completion of the merger. The merger is not contingent on shareholder approval of the amendment.

If the amendment is approved and becomes effective, if you are the holder of 600 or more shares of our common stock and you voted in favor of the amendment, we will ask that you surrender your stock certificate(s) representing your shares to receive a new stock certificate(s) which will include information regarding the transfer restriction.

## **Special Meeting of Shareholders (page 39)**

The special meeting of Guaranty shareholders will be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m., local time, at the main office of Guaranty Bond Bank at 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas. At the special meeting, you will be asked:

to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the merger agreement that provides for the merger of the merger subsidiary with and into Guaranty;

to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the amendment to our Articles of Incorporation that grants us a right of first refusal with respect to certain future transfers of our common stock; and

to act on any other matters that may be submitted to a vote at the special meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting.

## **Shares Entitled to Vote; Quorum and Vote Required (page 39)**

Approval of the merger agreement and the amendment each require the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock. As of the close of business on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, there were \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting. All holders of record of our common stock as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, will receive a copy of this proxy statement and are entitled to vote at the special meeting.

## **Effective Time of the Merger (page 43)**

The merger will become effective at the date and time specified in the certificate of merger to be issued by the Secretary of State of Texas. If our shareholders approve the merger agreement at the special meeting, and if the other conditions to the parties' obligations to effect the merger are met or waived by the party entitled to do so, we anticipate that the merger will be completed in the third quarter of 2005, although delays could occur.

## **Financing of the Merger (page 44)**

We estimate that approximately \$1.5 million will be required to pay for the shares to be exchanged in the merger and that the expenses related to the merger will be approximately \$120,000. We intend to use existing cash generated from our operations to fund the merger. Although it is not anticipated that we will need funds in excess of cash on hand to finance the merger, if additional funds are required, it is likely we will borrow such funds from one of our correspondent banks.

**Table of Contents**

**A WARNING ABOUT FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

We have made forward-looking statements within in the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Exchange Act in this proxy statement (and in documents to which we refer you in this proxy statement) that are subject to risks and uncertainties. We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and are including this statement for purposes of invoking these safe harbor provisions. You can identify these statements from our use of the words anticipate, believe, continue, expect, estimate, intend, may, will, should and expressions. These forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future results of our operations after the transaction is completed. Important factors that could cause actual results or developments to differ materially from estimates or projections contained in our forward-looking statements include, without limitation:

general business and economic conditions in the markets we serve may change or be less favorable than anticipated;

deposit attrition, operating costs, customer loss and business disruption may be greater than expected;

competition among financial services companies may increase;

changes in the interest rate environment may reduce our interest margins;

changes in market rates and prices may impact the value of our securities, loans, deposits and other financial instruments;

our actual cost savings resulting from the transaction are less than expected or we are unable to realize those cost savings as soon as expected;

legislative or regulatory changes may adversely affect our businesses;

personal or commercial customers' bankruptcies increase;

changes may occur in the securities markets; and

operational risks may occur, including data processing system failures or fraud.

A forward-looking statement may include a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying the forward-looking statement. We believe we have chosen these assumptions or bases in good faith and that they are reasonable. However, we caution you that assumptions or bases almost always vary from actual results, and the differences between assumptions or bases and actual results can be material. When considering forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements in this proxy statement, any supplement to this proxy statement and the documents we have incorporated by reference. We will not update these statements unless the securities laws require us to do so.





**Table of Contents**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND THE MERGER**

**Q: What will happen in the merger?**

A: In the merger, the merger subsidiary will be merged with and into Guaranty, with Guaranty being the surviving corporation. As a result of the merger, shareholders who own fewer than 600 shares of our common stock, except for shares owned by shareholders who properly exercise their rights as dissenting shareholders, will receive \$24.00 in cash for each share owned as of the effective time of the merger. Shareholders who own 600 or more shares of our common stock will continue to hold shares of our common stock and will not receive any cash in connection with the merger. The merger agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as *Appendix A*, has specific provisions regarding the treatment of shares held in street name. Please read the discussion under *Proposal I: Approval of the Merger Agreement Conversion of Shares in the Merger* for a description of these provisions generally as well as the terms of the merger agreement.

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

A: We are working toward completing the merger as quickly as possible, and we expect the merger to be completed during the third quarter of 2005, although delays could occur.

**Q: What are the shareholders being asked to vote upon?**

A: The shareholders are being asked to approve (1) the merger agreement providing for the merger of the merger subsidiary with and into Guaranty and (2) an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation granting us a right of first refusal with respect to certain future transfers of our common stock. If successfully completed, the merger will reduce the number of our shareholders, which will enable us to discontinue our reporting requirements under the Exchange Act, thereby eliminating the significant expense related to those reporting requirements. If the amendment is approved, it would grant us a right of first refusal with respect to certain future transfers of shares of our common stock, and is intended to help us control any potential future increases in the number of our record shareholders, and enable us to avoid or delay again becoming subject to the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act.

**Q: What votes are required for approval?**

A: Approval of the merger agreement and the amendment each requires the affirmative vote of a majority of shares of our common stock outstanding on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

**Q: How does the board of directors recommend that I vote?**

A: Our board of directors has approved and adopted the merger agreement and the amendment and recommends that you vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of the amendment.

In considering the recommendation of the board of directors, you should be aware that the members of our Board and the executive officers (12 persons) beneficially own approximately 33.39% of the outstanding shares of our common stock as of May 25, 2005 and all of such persons are expected to continue as shareholders and beneficially own approximately 34.12% of our common stock following the merger. Also, our current executive officers and directors will continue as our executive officers and directors following the merger. See *Special Factors Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger* and *Information About Guaranty and its Affiliates Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management*.

**Q: What happens if I transfer my shares after the record date?**

A: The record date for the special meeting is earlier than the expected date of the merger. Therefore, if you transfer your shares of Guaranty common stock after the record date, but prior to the merger, you will retain the right to vote at the special meeting, but the right to receive any merger consideration will transfer with the shares of common stock.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Q: What do I need to do now?**

A: After you have thoroughly reviewed this proxy statement, simply indicate on your proxy card how you want to vote and sign, date and complete your proxy card and mail it in the enclosed envelope so that your shares can be represented at the special meeting.

### **Q: What happens if I don't return a proxy card?**

A: Because approval of the merger agreement and approval of the amendment each require the approval of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock entitled to vote, the failure to return your proxy card has the same effect as if you voted against the merger agreement and against the amendment, unless you attend the special meeting and vote in person.

### **Q: May I vote in person?**

A: Yes. You may attend the special meeting and may vote your shares in person, rather than signing and mailing a proxy card. However, to ensure your shares are represented at the special meeting, please complete, date and sign the enclosed proxy card and return it in the enclosed envelope.

### **Q: May I change my vote after I have mailed my signed proxy card?**

A: Yes. Just send by mail a written revocation or a later-dated, completed and signed proxy card before the special meeting or attend the special meeting and notify the secretary of the special meeting that you want to vote in person. You may not change your vote by facsimile or telephone.

### **Q: If my shares are held in street name by my broker, how will my shares be voted?**

A: Your broker will vote your shares only if you provide instructions on how to vote. You should instruct your broker how to vote your shares, following the directions your broker provides. If you do not provide instructions to your broker, your shares will not be voted, which will have the same effect as a vote against the merger agreement and a vote against the amendment to our Articles of Incorporation.

### **Q: Will my shares held in street name or another form of record ownership be combined for voting purposes with shares I hold of record?**

A: No. Because any shares you may hold in street name will be deemed to be held by a different shareholder than any shares you hold of record, any such shares will not be combined for voting purposes with shares you hold of record. Similarly, if you own shares in various registered forms, such as jointly with your spouse, as trustee of a trust or as custodian for a minor, you will receive, and will need to sign and return, a separate proxy card for those shares because they are held in a different form of record ownership. Shares held by corporation or business entity must be voted by an authorized officer of the entity, and shares held in an IRA account must be voted under the rules governing the account.

### **Q: Do I have any rights to avoid participating in the merger?**

A: Yes. You have the right to withhold your vote for the merger agreement, dissent from the merger and seek the fair value of your shares as described in Proposal I: Approval of the Merger Agreement Dissenters' Rights of Appraisal beginning on page 45. The fair value may be more or less than the value of our common stock being paid in the merger. In order to perfect your rights to dissent, you must provide us

written notice of your intent to dissent from the merger prior to the special meeting and you must not vote in favor of the merger agreement.

**Table of Contents**

**Q: If I am receiving cash in the merger, when will I get my money?**

A: After the special meeting and the closing of the merger, we will mail you instructions on how to exchange your stock certificate(s) for cash. After you sign the forms provided and return your stock certificate(s), we will send you your payment.

**Q: What if I hold shares in street name?**

A: Any shares you hold in street name will be added to the number of any shares you may hold directly in record name in determining the number of shares you hold. You will be entitled to receive the cash amount payable in the merger only if you certify to Guaranty that the total number of shares you hold (whether held of record or in street name) is fewer than 600. The merger agreement has detailed provisions regarding the treatment of shares held in street name. Please read the discussion under Proposal I: Approval of the Merger Agreement Conversion of Shares in the Merger for a description of these provisions generally as well as the terms of the merger agreement.

**Q: What if I cannot find my stock certificate?**

A: The materials we will send you will include an affidavit and indemnity agreement that you will need to sign attesting to the loss of your certificate. Guaranty and its transfer agent will also require that you provide a bond to cover any potential loss to Guaranty.

**Q: How will Guaranty be operated after the merger?**

A: After the merger, Guaranty will continue to operate as a bank holding company and the parent corporation for the Bank, but will no longer file reports with the SEC. Guaranty expects its business and operations to continue as they are currently being conducted and, except as disclosed in this proxy statement, the merger is not anticipated to have any effect upon the conduct of Guaranty's business and operations. Our board of directors believes the going-private transaction is consistent with Guaranty's vision of remaining a community-oriented banking company. As a result of the merger, shareholders of Guaranty who receive cash for their shares in the merger will no longer have a continuing interest as shareholders of Guaranty and will not share in any future earnings and growth of Guaranty.

**Q: Who can help answer my questions?**

A: If you have additional questions about the merger or the special meeting, you should contact Clifton A. Payne at Guaranty Bancshares, Inc., 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455, telephone (903) 572-9881.

**Table of Contents**

**SPECIAL FACTORS**

**Purpose and Reasons for the Merger**

The primary purpose of the merger is to enable us to terminate the registration of our common stock under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act. Although we intend to keep our shareholders informed regarding our business operations and financial results after the merger, we anticipate that such termination will enable us to save significant legal, accounting and administrative expenses relating to our public disclosure and reporting requirements under the Exchange Act. As a secondary matter, it is likely to decrease the administrative expense we incur in servicing a large number of record shareholders who own relatively small numbers of shares.

We had approximately 430 record shareholders as of May 25, 2005, but approximately 84.89% of the outstanding shares as of that date were held by approximately 43 shareholders. As a result, there is a limited market for our shares and our Board of Directors believes there is little likelihood that a more active market will develop. However, because we have more than 300 shareholders of record and our common stock is registered under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act, we are required to comply with the disclosure and reporting requirements under the Exchange Act and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the Sarbanes-Oxley Act). These requirements include preparing and filing current and periodic reports with the SEC regarding our business, financial condition, Board of Directors and management team, having these reports reviewed by outside counsel and independent auditors and documenting our internal controls in preparation for an internal control audit to be filed with the SEC.

After the merger, we intend to keep our shareholders informed about our business operations and financial results by delivering annual audited financial statements and quarterly unaudited financial statements to them. We also plan to post these financial statements on our website at [www.gnty.com](http://www.gnty.com), which also contains other information about our business. Moreover, our business operations are primarily conducted through our banking subsidiary, Guaranty Bond Bank (the Bank), which is required to file quarterly financial reports with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). These reports are available online at [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov).

We are currently required to comply with many of the same securities law requirements that apply to large public companies with substantially greater compliance resources. Our resources are more limited, however, and securities law compliance activities represent a significant administrative and financial burden to a company of our relatively small size and market capitalization. Our efforts to comply with these requirements also cause us to incur less tangible, but nonetheless significant, costs in management time and attention that could otherwise be deployed toward revenue enhancing activities. The cost of compliance is substantial, representing an estimated direct and indirect annual cost to us approximately \$350,000. In light of this expense and the limited trading volume in our common stock, our Board of Directors believes that we and our shareholders receive little relative benefit from being registered under the Exchange Act.

In light of the relatively small benefit we believe our shareholders have received as a result of our status as a public company, we believe the merger will provide a more efficient means of using our capital to benefit our shareholders. At present, we believe that our limited trading market and the resulting inability of our shareholders to have the desired degree of liquidity in their investment in our common stock through an efficient market has resulted in little relative benefit for our shareholders as compared to the costs of maintaining our registration.

The merger is designed to substantially reduce the number of our shareholders of record. As of May 25, 2005, we had approximately 246 shareholders who owned fewer than 600 shares of record. By reducing our number of record shareholders to fewer than 300 thereby allowing us to terminate our registration under the Exchange Act and suspend our reporting obligations, the merger will result in a reduction of the significant administrative, accounting, and legal expenses incurred in complying with disclosure, reporting and compliance requirements under

the Exchange Act and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

**Table of Contents**

In addition to relieving us of the administrative burden and costs associated with our public disclosure and otherwise complying with the periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act as well as decreasing the expense and burden of dealing with our high number of shareholders holding small positions in our common stock, the merger will also allow us:

to permit cashed-out shareholders to receive cash for their shares, without having to pay brokerage commissions, at a fair price that represents a premium of 24.35% over the most recent closing price of our common stock prior to announcement of the merger and a premium 15.61% over the median sales price in the three month period prior to announcement of the merger. If the merger is completed, our executive officers and directors (and all other holders of 600 or more shares) will benefit by a slight increase in their percentage ownership of our common stock and an increase in diluted earnings per share on an annual basis, although the net book value of their holdings will decrease; and

to increase management's flexibility to consider and initiate actions that may produce long-term benefits and growth without the pressure and expectation to produce quarterly earnings per share growth.

Our Board of Directors considered that some shareholders may prefer to continue as shareholders of a public company. There are many advantages to being a public company, including a more active trading market and the enhanced ability to use company stock to raise capital or make acquisitions. With respect to the trading market, there is a limited market for our common stock and therefore, we have not been able to effectively take advantage of this benefit. Another potential advantage of being a public company is the ability to access capital to meet additional capital needs. Since becoming a public company in 1998, however, we have not made any public offerings of common stock or any other equity or debt securities. We used our common stock as consideration for only one acquisition which occurred in 1999.

Nonetheless, the Board believes that the disadvantages of having us continue to be a public company outweigh the advantages of being a public company. The Board has no present intention to raise capital through sales of securities in a public offering or to acquire other business entities using our stock as the consideration for any such acquisition. Accordingly, we are not likely to make use of any advantage that our status as a public company may offer.

We incur significant direct costs attributable to our compliance with the SEC's filing and reporting requirements imposed on public companies. We also incur substantial indirect costs as a result of, among other things, the executive time spent to prepare and review such filings. Although it is impossible to specifically quantify these indirect costs, we estimate that our management and staff spend an average of 33% of their time (equating to approximately 20 days per quarter) on activities directly related to compliance with federal securities laws such as preparing and reviewing SEC-compliant financial statements and periodic reports, maintaining and overseeing our disclosure and internal controls, monitoring and reporting transactions and other data related to insiders' stock ownership and consulting with independent auditors and counsel on compliance matters. Our direct and indirect costs related to being a public company are estimated to approximate \$350,000 annually, as follows:

<i>Direct Costs</i>	
Independent registered public accounting firm	\$ 70,000
SEC counsel	25,000
Accounting/internal controls consulting fees	50,000
Internal compliance costs	55,000
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	
Management staff and time	\$ 150,000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>



Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

It is important to note that in addition to the above-referenced estimated annual cost savings, the merger and termination of our Exchange Act registration would result in a significant cost savings due to Guaranty not being

## Table of Contents

subject to new internal control audit requirements imposed by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Preparing Guaranty to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act would require significant expenditures during 2006, including costs related to computer software and hardware, fees to third parties for compliance planning, assessment, documentation and testing and costs related to management and other employees. These costs are estimated to be approximately \$300,000.

## **Alternatives Considered**

The 600 share level for shareholders to be cashed out was chosen by management and recommended to our Board of Directors based on an analysis of our shareholder list as of May 25, 2005. Lower threshold numbers were considered and rejected as it was believed they would have created an unacceptably high risk that the transaction would not yield the desired result of having fewer than 300 shareholders of record. Because shareholders are free to buy or transfer shares until the effective time of the merger, we expect that some shareholders will acquire additional shares before the effective time through market purchases or other transactions in order to own more than the threshold number of shares and thus remain a shareholder after the merger. Because the number of shareholders above the threshold could increase before the effective time, it was necessary to select a threshold high enough to allow for possible changes in the composition of the shareholder list without defeating the purpose of the proposed transaction.

In making our determination, we considered other means of achieving the same result, but rejected these alternatives because we believed that the merger would be simplest, most cost-effective manner and would be most likely to achieve the desired result. These other alternatives considered included:

**Issuer Tender Offer.** We considered an issuer tender offer to repurchase shares of our outstanding common stock. Because acceptance of the tender offer would be voluntary, the results would be unpredictable and we were uncertain as to whether this alternative would result in participation by a sufficient number of record shareholders to accomplish the going private objective. Accordingly, we rejected this alternative.

**Reverse Stock Split.** We also considered the use of a process known as a reverse stock split as an alternative to the merger. In a reverse stock split, we would reduce the number of issued and outstanding shares of our common stock through an amendment to our articles of incorporation, so that shareholders owning a certain number of shares would own less than one full share of our common stock, and we would pay cash for the resulting fractional share interests. While the reverse stock split and the merger would both achieve the same objective of reducing the number of record shareholders in a predictable manner, we chose the merger because we concluded that a reverse stock split would cost us more in that we would have to pay cash to large shareholders for their fractional shares, even though they would remain shareholders after the transaction. We also considered structuring the transaction as a reverse stock split coupled with (1) an offer to sell additional shares of our common stock to shareholders who would own at least one share following the reverse stock split, or (2) a forward stock split, but we determined these structures to be too complicated and expensive.

**Share Reclassification.** In addition, the Board considered a share reclassification, which would involve authorization of new class of preferred stock and the exchange by certain shareholders of common stock for the new preferred stock. However, the Board rejected this alternative because it would not provide any liquidity for shareholders owning a small number of shares and would not reduce our costs with respect to servicing a large number of shareholders.

**Purchase of Shares in the Open Market.** We also considered purchasing shares of our common stock in the open market. We rejected this alternative because we concluded that it was highly unlikely that we could acquire shares from a sufficient number of holders to accomplish the going private objective.

Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

We did not consider other methods to reduce expenses other than going private because (1) these types of transactions are inconsistent with the narrower purpose of the proposed transaction, which is to discontinue our SEC reporting obligations and (2) we were not aware of other methods of achieving expense reductions that were

## **Table of Contents**

comparable with those reductions possible through the merger. In addition, we did discuss the possibility of a third party buyout, but we did not pursue this course of action because no third party offer presently existed and we believe that we can best maximize shareholder value by remaining an independent banking organization. Remaining independent will enable us to focus our growth in our target markets and capitalize on our local market presence, which we believe will enhance our earnings.

*Other Considerations.* In approving and recommending the proposed merger transaction, our directors were aware of potential conflicts of interest, or appearances of conflicts of interest issues. The transaction will result in an increase in the percentage of ownership of all directors and executive officers. As a group, our directors and officers beneficially own approximately 33.39% of the outstanding shares of our common stock and following the effective time of the merger, our directors and executive officers would beneficially own approximately 34.12% of the shares. However, this benefit is shared proportionally by all remaining shareholders. In addition, it is expected that the transaction will, after it is concluded, reduce the risk of litigation and liability to which directors and officers of public companies are exposed.

While the foregoing narration of the factors considered by our Board of Directors is intended to discuss in reasonable detail the material factors on which the Board relied, it does not necessarily reflect all factors involved in the process. In view of the variety of factors considered in connection with the Board's evaluation of the merger proposal, we did not find it practicable to quantify or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors considered in reaching our determination. We considered all the factors as a whole in reaching our determination. In addition, individual members of our Board of Directors may have given different weights to different factors.

The merger proposal is being made at this time because the sooner the proposal can be implemented, the sooner we will cease to incur the expenses and burdens associated with the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and the sooner shareholders who are to receive cash in the merger will receive and be able to reinvest or otherwise make use of such cash payments. We determined that the merger proposal was the best choice for the shareholders and us. We estimate that following the proposed merger approximately 184 shareholders of record will remain, which will leave us comfortably below the maximum of 300 shareholders of record necessary to terminate our registration under the Exchange Act and no longer be subject to the related reporting requirements.

## **Background of the Merger**

*Overview.* We were incorporated as a business corporation under the laws of the State of Texas in 1980 to serve as a holding company for Guaranty Bond Bank, formally known as Guaranty Bank, which was chartered in 1913, and for Talco State Bank, which was chartered in 1912 and merged into the Bank in 1997. We offer a broad range of financial products and services to small and medium-sized businesses and consumers through twelve banking locations in the Texas communities Mt. Pleasant (two offices), Bogata, Commerce, Ft. Stockton, Mount Vernon, Paris, Pittsburg, Sulphur Springs, Talco and Texarkana (two offices). Our headquarters are located at 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455, and our telephone number is (903) 572-9881.

The Bank owns interests in five entities which complement our business, the first three of which are wholly-owned: (1) Guaranty Leasing Company, which finances equipment leases and has engaged in certain leveraged lease transactions; (2) Guaranty Company, which owns real estate for future Bank expansion; (3) GB Com, Inc., a nominee company; (4) BSC Securities, L.C., which provides brokerage services; and, (5) Independent Bank Services, L.C., which performs compliance, loan review, internal audit and electronic data processing audit functions. These entities are accounted for in our consolidated financial statements using the equity method of accounting and are included in other assets on the balance sheet.

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

As of May 25, 2005, there were 2,826,012 shares of Guaranty common stock issued and outstanding and held by 430 record holders. Approximately 246 of these record shareholders held fewer than 600 shares (not including beneficial owners whose shares may be registered in street name). Collectively, these 246 record holders own an aggregate of approximately 50,036 shares, representing approximately 1.77% of our outstanding shares. Additionally, based on available information, we estimate that approximately 11,713 shares are held in

## Table of Contents

street name by brokers or other nominees for the benefit of approximately 48 owners who hold, in the aggregate, fewer than 600 shares of our common stock. These shares will also be cashed out in the merger.

*Board of Directors.* Our common stock started trading on the National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market on May 21, 1998 and we have filed reports under the Exchange Act since 1998. These reports include annual, quarterly and current reports presenting and analyzing our business, financial condition, results of operations and management structure; ongoing reports regarding insiders' stock transactions and potential short-swing profit liability; and proxy statements disclosing information about our directors and executive officers, their compensation and our corporate governance process. Although our public reporting obligations have existed since 1998, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has added several reporting and procedural requirements that have become effective at various points during the past two years. As a result of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, we have become subject to heightened compliance and documentation requirements in a variety of areas, including disclosure and internal controls, internal and external audit relationships, and the duties and qualifications of our Board committees. We have also become subject to accelerated and expanded disclosure requirements relating to our corporate and trading activities. As a result of these new requirements, our cost of compliance has increased, particularly relative to our limited personnel resources and market capitalization. We anticipate further significant increases resulting from the upcoming requirement that we prepare and file with the SEC an audited report as to our internal controls for fiscal 2006. See "Purpose and Reasons for the Merger" on page 10.

As a result of these requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, in January of 2005 our Board of Directors began to discuss generally the relative benefits and costs, both direct and indirect, relating to continuing our status as a public company.

At the April 2005 Board meeting, our Board formally discussed issues related to continuing our status as a public company, including the alternatives available to effect a going private transaction. Based on these discussions, our Board authorized management to continue to investigate a going-private transaction by reviewing an updated shareholder list, obtaining a valuation of our common stock, hiring financial advisors to prepare a fairness opinion regarding the cash price to be paid in a going private transaction if one was ultimately approved and exploring financing alternatives. Following this meeting, our Chairman and the Chief Financial Officer examined our shareholder list to evaluate the effects of various cash-out thresholds and the costs involved with a going private transaction. Members of our management also discussed the process of going private with outside counsel, including the reverse stock split, merger, share reclassification, open market purchase and tender offer alternatives. We selected Hoefer & Arnett as our financial advisors for this transaction based on (1) its reputation and experience in rendering valuations and fairness opinions, (2) its knowledge of the financial services industry and our business and (3) the overall terms, including fees, of the engagement.

On May 17, 2005, the Board held a regular meeting at which it again discussed information regarding the alternative methods to accomplish a going private transaction, the appropriate cash-out threshold and the advantages and disadvantages of a going private transaction as summarized in "Alternatives Considered" on page 12 and "Purpose and Reasons for the Merger" on page 10. The Board also discussed our financial position and the use of cash or borrowings to finance the transaction.

On June 7, 2005, the Board held a special meeting at which it renewed its discussions as to whether it was in our best interests and the best interests of our shareholders to engage in the going private transaction. After lengthy discussion, the Board unanimously determined that we would go forward with the going private proposal in the form of a merger with a newly-formed, wholly-owned subsidiary. The Board also determined that the source of funds for payment to cash-out shareholders would be from our existing cash; provided that if funds were required in excess of cash on hand, management was authorized to borrow such funds.

On May 27, 2005, Hoefer & Arnett delivered to our Chairman and our Chief Financial Officer its final written valuation report, dated May 17, 2005, which described Hoefer & Arnett's analyses in detail. This valuation report was presented to the Board of Directors at the June 7, 2005 special Board meeting (see "Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor" on page 20 for a summary of the valuation). Hoefer & Arnett's

independent valuation report provided that the fair value of our common stock was \$24.00 per share and included

## Table of Contents

a detailed explanation of the financial analyses supporting the fair value determination and the methods utilized in preparing its valuation. The valuation report also included a general discussion of approaches to valuation and an analysis of our financial condition. Additionally, the valuation report included an overview of approaches to value utilized by Hoefer & Arnett in making its determination of value, historical trading information for a guideline comparison (or a peer group) of publicly traded banks engaged in the same or similar lines of business as Guaranty, with financial assets under \$1.0 billion and a return on assets of greater than 0.0% located in the southwestern region of the U.S., and financial information from public bank holding companies.

At the June 7, 2005 meeting, the Board also considered:

the alternatives presented under Alternatives Considered on page 12;

the benefits and disadvantages of the merger as described under Purpose and Reasons for the Merger on page 10;

the effects of the merger as described under Effects of the Merger on Guaranty on page 23, Effects of the Merger on Shareholders Generally on page 25 and Effects of the Merger on Affiliated Shareholders on page 27; and

the historical market prices of our common stock as described on page 51.

In determining the number of shares a shareholder needed to own in order to remain a shareholder after the merger, the Board's primary consideration was how best to achieve the goal of becoming a private company while cashing out the fewest number of shareholders. The Board considered using 500 shares as the minimum number of shares a shareholder needed to own in order to continue as a shareholder after the merger. It was determined, however, that 500 shares was too low of a threshold because it did not provide a large enough cushion below 300 in the event shareholders acquired additional shares to remain a shareholder or otherwise changed their holdings in our common stock. Thus, although more expensive, the Board selected 600 shares as the minimum number of shares required to remain as shareholder because it represented a breakpoint among shareholders and provided a sufficient cushion in order to ensure that, after completion of the merger, the number of record shareholders would be less than the 300 shareholder limit necessary to terminate our registration under the Exchange Act, while at the same time providing that a relatively small number of shares (estimated at approximately 61,749, or 2.19% of our outstanding shares at the time of the meeting) would be cashed out in the proposed merger.

At the June 7, 2005 special Board meeting, the Board discussed the possibility that our number of record shareholders could increase following the merger as a result of certain share transfers, whether by sale, gift or otherwise. Under the provisions of the Exchange Act, if, after completion of the merger, the number of our shareholders of record did increase to 300 or greater, then we would be required to resume our reporting obligations under the Exchange Act. The Board discussed an amendment to our Articles of Incorporation to give us a right of first refusal to purchase any shares of our common stock that are to be transferred in a manner that would result in an increase in the number of our record holders, although we would not be obligated to purchase any such shares. The purpose of the amendment is to help us control any potential future increases in the number of our record shareholders to enable us to delay or avoid again becoming subject to the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act.

At the June 7, 2005 special Board meeting, legal counsel advised the Board with respect to certain matters related to the transaction, including possibly forming an independent committee comprised of independent members of the Board to review and evaluate the proposed transaction on behalf of the shareholders as well as possibly structuring the transaction to include neutralized voting, whereby separate approval by a majority of those shareholders who are not executive officers or directors of Guaranty would be required in order to consummate the transaction. Following discussion, the Board unanimously determined not to form an independent committee to evaluate the proposed transaction because a majority of our Board of Directors is comprised of independent members and all of the directors (including all of our independent directors) held



an

## **Table of Contents**

interest in the transaction as shareholders who owned at least 600 shares of Guaranty's common stock. The Board also unanimously determined not to offer neutralized voting since the Board believed that a neutralized voting requirement would usurp the power of the holders of a majority of our outstanding shares to consider and approve the merger agreement as provided under Texas law, our charter documents and the terms of the merger agreement. We also considered such provision unnecessary in light of the rights of shareholders, whether affiliated or unaffiliated, to dissent from the merger under Texas corporate law, regardless of the number of shares that they own. While the Board of Directors believes that this procedural safeguard was not necessary in rendering its determination, the Board did consider that the members of the Board and our executive officers beneficially own approximately 33.39% of our outstanding common stock and would beneficially own an increased percentage following the merger. However, because affiliated and unaffiliated shareholders are treated identically under the terms of the transaction as proposed, the Board did not believe that this procedural safeguard was a necessary measure.

After a discussion of these factors, and Hoefler & Arnett's May 17, 2005 valuation report, our Board of Directors, including the independent directors, unanimously approved the merger agreement pursuant to which shareholders owning fewer than 600 shares would receive cash for their shares of our common stock. Given the involuntary nature of the merger and the fact that the range of low and high sale prices for Guaranty common stock reported by the Nasdaq Stock Market during the period from January 1, 2005 through June 6, 2005 was \$17.50 to \$23.38, the Board set the cash-out price at \$24.00. The Board also made a determination that the merger was fair, from a financial and procedural point of view, to our unaffiliated shareholders receiving cash under the merger agreement and to our affiliated and unaffiliated shareholders retaining their shares, and directed that the merger agreement be submitted to the shareholders with a recommendation for approval. The Board also unanimously approved the proposed amendment to our Articles of Incorporation.

On June 7, 2005, Hoefler & Arnett also delivered its oral opinion to the Board stating that the \$24.00 per share price to be paid in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to our shareholders, both those who will receive cash and those who will retain their shares in the merger. (See Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor ). In rendering its opinion, Hoefler & Arnett reviewed, among other things, its written valuation report dated May 17, 2005. Hoefler & Arnett subsequently delivered its written opinion, dated as of June 7, 2005. The written opinion was dated June 7, 2005, approximately three weeks later than the valuation report, because Hoefler & Arnett could not prepare an opinion as to the fairness of the \$24.00 per share cash out price until the Board established the cash-out price, which, as described above, did not occur until the June 7, 2005 special Board meeting.

### **Recommendation of the Board of Directors; Fairness of the Merger Proposal**

The structure and terms of the merger were determined by our current management and our Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors currently consists of eleven (11) persons, seven (7) of whom are independent directors and four (4) of whom are officers of Guaranty or the Bank. We retained Hoefler & Arnett, an independent financial advisor experienced in the financial analysis of and valuation of financial institutions, to value our common stock. The cash consideration to be paid for our common stock under the merger was determined by us, based, in part, on Hoefler & Arnett's valuation report.

After considerable discussion, our Board of Directors unanimously determined and believes that the merger agreement is in the best interests of us and our shareholders. In reaching its conclusion, our Board of Directors also determined that the transaction is in the best interests of and substantively fair to unaffiliated shareholders who will receive cash in the merger as well as those shareholders who will retain their shares of common stock after the merger. Our Board of Directors also believes that the process by which the transaction was approved is fair to all of our shareholders, including unaffiliated shareholders receiving cash in the merger and unaffiliated shareholders who will retain their shares after the merger. Further, our Board unanimously approved the merger agreement, which included the \$24.00 per share price to be paid to shareholders whose shares are cashed out in the merger. All of the members of our Board of Directors and our executive officers have expressed an intention

## Table of Contents

to vote in favor of the merger agreement for the reasons described below. As of May 25, 2005, our directors and executive officers (12 persons) owned a total of 904,314 shares of our common stock, or approximately 32.00% (not including any shares that may be acquired pursuant to the exercise of stock options) of the total shares entitled to vote at the special meeting. Accordingly, only the approval of shareholders owning an additional \_\_\_\_\_ shares is necessary for the approval of the merger agreement and for approval of the amendment

Our Board of Directors considered a number of factors in deciding to approve the merger agreement. The Board's primary reason for effecting the merger is to accomplish the going private transaction so that our shares will no longer be registered under the Exchange Act. We considered the views of management and that cost savings of approximately \$350,000 per year could be achieved if we terminated the registration of our common stock under the Exchange Act, including indirect savings resulting from reductions in the time and effort currently required of management to comply with the reporting and other requirements associated with continued registration of our common stock under the Exchange Act. We also considered the effect that terminating the registration of our common stock, the related de-listing of our common stock from the Nasdaq Stock Market and the proposed amendment to our Articles of Incorporation would have on the market for our common stock and the ability of shareholders to buy and sell shares. However, we determined that even as a publicly-traded company, there is a limited market for the shares of our common stock, especially for sales of large blocks of such shares, and that our shareholders derive little benefit from our status as a publicly-held company. We determined that the cost savings and reduced burden on management to be achieved by terminating registration of our common stock under the Exchange Act outweighed any potential detriment from terminating such registration.

We considered numerous factors in reaching our conclusion as to the fairness of the merger to all of our shareholders, including the effects described under *Effects of the Merger on Guaranty* on page 23, *Effects of the Merger on Shareholders Generally* on page 25, *Effects of the Merger on Affiliated Shareholders* on page 27 and *Purposes and Reasons for the Merger* on page 10. The Board also reviewed the federal income tax and pro forma financial effects of the merger on us and our shareholders. We did not assign any specific weights to the factors listed below. Moreover, in their considerations individual directors may have given differing weights to different factors.

**Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor.** Our Board of Directors considered the valuation report prepared by Hoefler & Arnett dated May 17, 2005, as well as the written fairness opinion dated June 7, 2005, to the effect that, as of the date of such opinion and based upon and subject to certain matters stated therein, the cash consideration to be paid in the merger is fair, from a financial point of view, to our shareholders, including unaffiliated shareholders who will receive cash in the merger as well as those shareholders who will retain their shares after the merger. The Board of Directors also reviewed and considered the financial analyses supporting the opinion of the financial advisor. You should read the discussion under *Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor* and the copy of the opinion of Hoefler & Arnett, which is attached as *Appendix C* to this proxy statement.

**Historical Market Prices of Our Common Stock.** Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market System under the symbol *GNTY*. During the 12 months prior to the public announcement of the proposed merger, the stock traded infrequently. We reviewed the closing price for our common stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market from January 1, 2004 to June 6, 2005, which ranged from \$17.05 to \$24.00 per share. You should read the discussion under *Information About Guaranty and its Affiliates Market for Common Stock and Dividends* for more information about our stock prices. The closing price of our common stock on June 6, 2005, the day immediately prior to the public announcement of the merger, was \$19.35. Based upon the limited trading history and the prices of our common stock prior to the public announcement of the merger, the Board of Directors believes that the price of \$24.00 is fair to all of our shareholders.

**Premium to Book Value.** As of March 31, 2005, our book value per share was \$13.20. Although book value was a factor that was considered by our Board of Directors, among others, in determining the

## Table of Contents

consideration to be paid to cashed-out shareholders in the merger, the Board of Directors determined that it was not directly relevant because it was the Board's view that our value as a going concern is greater than our book value. However, the Board of Directors noted that the per share cash price of \$24.00 payable in the merger reflected a multiple of 1.82 times our March 31, 2005, book value per share.

**Going Concern Value.** In determining the cash amount to be paid to cashed-out shareholders in the merger, our Board of Directors valued our shares on the basis of a going concern, without giving effect to any anticipated effects of the merger. Also, the Board of Directors did not consider the amount per share that might be realized in a sale of 100% of our stock, as our Board of Directors determined that consideration of such an amount was inappropriate in the context of a transaction that would not result in a change of control of Guaranty. In determining the going concern value of our shares, the Board of Directors adopted the analyses and conclusions of our financial advisor, which are described under "Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor".

**Earnings.** Our Board of Directors reviewed our earnings for the previous three years. For the three years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, we reported net income of approximately \$4.4 million, \$3.8 million and \$3.7 million, respectively. The Board also considered our earnings of \$983,000 for the first quarter of 2005. Our Board of Directors believes that our earnings over the last three years and the first three months in 2005 provide a basis for a reasonable expectation of future performance and an expectation of future benefits. Based upon its review, the Board of Directors believes that the \$24.00 per share price is fair.

**Liquidity Event.** Our Board of Directors considered the opportunity that the merger presents for shareholders owning fewer than 600 shares to liquidate their holdings without incurring brokerage costs, particularly given the limited trading volume for shares of our common stock at a price that represents a premium over historical sales prices.

We also recognized that the merger consideration to be paid to the cashed-out shareholders in the merger reflected a premium over the closing prices for our common stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market prior to the announcement of the merger.

The Board of Directors also considered historical prices paid by Guaranty to repurchase its shares. Since July 2003, we have repurchased a total of 114,580 shares at purchase prices ranging from \$19.50 to \$22.40 in open market transactions.

The Board of Directors did not consider transactions in our common stock which occurred following the announcement of the transaction. Additionally, certain of our directors and executive officers have engaged in transactions involving shares of our common stock in the open market in the two years prior to the announcement of the going private transaction. While the Board of Directors did consider these trades in general terms in its review of the historical prices of our common stock, the Board of Directors did not distinguish between transactions in our common stock involving directors and executive officers and those not involving such persons.

Although it is quite rare for an insured depository institution to go into voluntary liquidation, the base valuation technique that relates to our book value is, for the most part, an assumed liquidation value. Since the price to be paid to the cash-out shareholders in the merger is in excess of our book value and because we will continue to operate our business following completion of the merger, we did not consider our liquidation value an important factor in determining the fairness of the merger.

No firm offers have been made by an unaffiliated person during the preceding two years for (1) the merger or consolidation of us into or with such person, (2) the sale or other transfer of all or any substantial part of our assets or (3) the purchase of a number of shares of our common stock that would enable the holder thereof to exercise control of us.



## **Table of Contents**

The transaction is not structured so that approval of at least a majority of unaffiliated shareholders is required. Our Board determined that any such voting requirement would usurp the power of the holders of a majority of our outstanding shares to consider and approve the merger agreement as provided under Texas law, our charter documents and the terms of the merger agreement. We also considered such a provision unnecessary in light of the rights of shareholders, whether affiliated or unaffiliated to dissent from the merger pursuant to Texas corporate law, regardless of the number of shares they own. See Proposal I: Approval of the Merger Agreement Dissenters Rights of Appraisal.

A majority of our Board of Directors is comprised of independent members, and, accordingly, there was no need to form a special committee or retain any unaffiliated representative(s) to represent unaffiliated shareholders, as our Board of Directors was able to adequately balance the competing interests of the non-continuing shareholders and the continuing shareholders in accordance with their fiduciary duties. Although all of the members of our Board of Directors own more than 600 shares of our common stock, the 600 share cutoff set in the merger agreement was determined without regard to the directors' share ownership. As this represented the sole potential conflict of interest and the Board members will be treated identically to all other shareholders in the merger, we did not feel that any additional protections that may be afforded by a special committee would be significant. See Special Factors Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger and Special Factors Conduct of Guaranty's Business After the Merger.

We have not made any provision in connection with the merger to grant unaffiliated shareholders access to our corporate files or to obtain counsel or appraisal services at our expense. With respect to unaffiliated shareholders' access to our corporate files, we determined that this proxy statement, together with our other filings with the SEC, provide adequate information for unaffiliated shareholders to make an informed decision with respect to the merger. We also considered the fact that under Texas corporate law, and subject to certain conditions set forth under Texas law, shareholders have the right to review our relevant books and records of account. We did not consider these steps necessary to ensure the fairness of the merger proposal. We determined that such steps would be costly and would not provide any meaningful additional benefits. We noted the fact that the financial advisor engaged by us considered and rendered its opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the consideration payable in the merger to our shareholders, including shareholders who will receive cash in the merger and those who will retain their shares after the merger.

After consideration of the factors described above, the Board believes that the transaction is substantively fair, notwithstanding the absence of such an unaffiliated shareholder approval requirement, independent committee or unaffiliated representative. The Board also believes that the transaction is procedurally fair because, after consideration of all aspects of the proposed transaction as described above, all of the directors, including all of the members of the Board who are not employees of Guaranty, approved the merger and the merger agreement.

## **Determination of Fairness by Merger Subsidiary and Filing Persons**

The merger subsidiary was formed for the purpose of facilitating the going private transaction. Its sole shareholder is Guaranty and its sole director and executive officer is Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr., who is also our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Under certain applicable rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC, our directors and executive officers are deemed to be filing persons for the purposes of the going private transaction. As a result, each filing person is required to state whether he or she reasonably believes that the transaction is fair to unaffiliated security holders. The filing persons consist of the following individuals: Tyson T. Abston, Martin Bell, Johnny O. Conroy, Jonice Crane, C.A. Hinton, Sr., Carl Johnson, Jr., Kirk Lee, Weldon Miller, Clifton A. Payne, Bill Priefert, Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr. and Gene Watson (collectively, the Filing Persons ).

In forming their belief as to the fairness of the transaction to the unaffiliated shareholders, the merger subsidiary and each of the Filing Persons relied upon the factors considered by and have expressly adopted the analysis and conclusions of the Board of Directors of Guaranty, including the analyses performed and opinion delivered by Hoefer & Arnett. See Recommendation of the Board of Directors; Fairness of the Merger



## **Table of Contents**

Proposal. Based on those factors, the merger subsidiary and each of the Filing Persons reasonably believes that the merger agreement and the process by which the transaction was approved are fair to each of the unaffiliated shareholders, including those who will receive cash in the merger and those who will retain their shares of common stock. Neither the merger subsidiary nor any of the Filing Persons have received any report, opinion or appraisal from an outside party that is materially related to the merger other than the report of Hoefler & Arnett. The belief of each of the Filing Persons is their individual belief and does not constitute investment advice. If shareholders are unsure of whether to vote in favor of the merger agreement, they should consider the recommendation of the Board of Directors or consult with their personal financial advisor.

## **Opinion of Independent Financial Advisor**

Our board of directors retained Hoefler & Arnett as its financial advisor in connection with the merger because Hoefler & Arnett is a nationally recognized investment banking firm with substantial expertise in transactions similar to the proposed transaction and is familiar with us and our business. The firm is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) with direct access to inter-dealer markets in NASD Automated Quotation (NASDAQ) and Over-the-Counter (OTC) securities, and makes markets in securities under its symbol HOFR. As part of its investment banking activities, Hoefler & Arnett is regularly engaged in the independent valuation of financial institutions and securities in connection with mergers, acquisitions, underwritings, sales and distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for estate, corporate and other purposes.

Hoefler & Arnett rendered to our Board of Directors of a written opinion on June 7, 2005, that the fair value of the outstanding common stock of Guaranty for the purpose of effecting a cash-out merger to go private was \$24.00 per share and the consideration to be received is fair, from a financial point of view, to our shareholders that will be cashed out and to our shareholders that will remain following the merger. A copy of Hoefler & Arnett's opinion dated as of the date of this proxy statement is attached as *Appendix C* to this proxy statement and should be read in its entirety.

No limitations were imposed by our Board of Directors upon Hoefler & Arnett with respect to the investigations made or procedures followed in rendering its opinion. Hoefler & Arnett's fairness opinion is based on the financial analysis described below. Hoefler & Arnett's fairness opinion is for the use and benefit of our Board of Directors in connection with its consideration of the proposed transaction. Hoefler & Arnett's fairness opinion is not intended to be and does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder as to how such shareholder should vote with respect to the proposed transaction. Hoefler & Arnett's fairness opinion does not address our underlying business decision to proceed with the proposed transaction.

In arriving at its opinion, Hoefler & Arnett reviewed and analyzed, among other things, the following:

a draft of the Agreement and Plan of Merger;

our annual reports on Form 10-K for the years ended December 31, 2004, December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002;

our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2005, September 30, 2004, June 30, 2004 and March 31, 2004;



## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

certain other information relating to us, including financial forecasts provided to Hoefler & Arnett or discussed with Hoefler & Arnett by us and information from meetings with our management to discuss past and current operations, financial condition and prospects, as well as the results of regulatory examinations;

the publicly reported historical prices and trading activity for our common stock;

the market price of selected publicly traded banking institutions; and

certain other information, financial studies, analyses and investigations and financial, economic and market criteria which Hoefler & Arnett deemed relevant.

## **Table of Contents**

In conducting its review and in rendering its opinion, Hoefler & Arnett relied upon and assumed the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information provided to it or publicly available, and did not attempt to independently verify the same. Hoefler & Arnett relied upon our management as to the reasonableness of the financial and operating forecasts and projections (and the assumptions and bases therefor) provided to it, and Hoefler & Arnett assumed that such forecasts and projections reflect the best currently available estimates and judgments of our management.

We do not publicly disclose internal management forecasts, projections or estimates of the type furnished to Hoefler & Arnett in connection with its analysis of the financial terms of the proposed transaction, and such forecasts and estimates were not prepared with a view towards public disclosure. These forecasts and estimates were based on numerous variables and assumptions which are inherently uncertain and which may not be within the control of management, including without limitation to, the general economic, regulatory and competitive conditions. Accordingly, actual results could vary materially from those set forth in such forecasts and estimates.

Hoefler & Arnett did not make or obtain any evaluations or appraisals of our assets or liabilities. Hoefler & Arnett is not an expert in the valuation of allowances for loan losses and it did not make an independent evaluation of our adequacy of the allowance for loan losses, nor did it did it review any individual loan credit files. Hoefler & Arnett assumed that the allowance for loan losses set forth in our financial statements was adequate to cover such losses. For purposes of its opinion, Hoefler & Arnett assumed that the merger would have the tax, accounting and legal effects described in the merger agreement. Hoefler & Arnett's opinion as expressed herein is limited to the fairness of the proposed transaction, from a financial point of view, to our shareholders.

The opinion expressed by Hoefler & Arnett was based upon market, economic and other relevant considerations as they existed and have been evaluated as of the date of the opinion and the information made available to it through that date. Events occurring after the date of issuance of the opinion including, but not limited to, changes affecting the securities markets, the results of operations or material changes in assets or liabilities, could materially affect the assumptions used in preparing the opinion. Hoefler & Arnett assumed that all of the representations and warranties contained in the merger agreement and any related agreements are true and correct, that each party to such agreements will perform all of the covenants required to be performed by such party under such agreements and that the conditions precedent in the merger agreement are not waived.

*Summary of Analysis.* The following is a summary of the material financial analyses performed by Hoefler & Arnett in connection with the preparation of its opinion and does not purport to be a complete description of all the analyses performed by Hoefler & Arnett. The summary includes information presented in tabular format, which should be read together with the text that accompanies those tables. Hoefler & Arnett believes that its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of such analyses and the factors considered therein, without considering all factors and analyses, could create an incomplete view of the analyses and the processes underlying its opinion. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process involving subjective judgments and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. In its analyses, Hoefler & Arnett made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, business and economic conditions, and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of Guaranty and Hoefler & Arnett. Any estimates contained in Hoefler & Arnett's analyses are not necessarily indicative of future results or values, which may be significantly more or less favorable than such estimates. Estimates of values of companies do not purport to be appraisals or necessarily reflect the prices at which companies or their securities may actually be sold.

Article 5.12 of the TBCA defines "fair value" as the value of the shares as of the day immediately preceding the meeting at which the corporate action is adopted, excluding any appreciation or depreciation in anticipation of the proposed action. This definition is broadly accepted and used in courts of law and it is the basis upon which Hoefler & Arnett has relied in determining the fair value of Guaranty's common stock.

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

In arriving at its opinion as to the fair value of the appraised stock, Hoefer & Arnett considered the nature and history of Guaranty. Hoefer & Arnett considered the competitive environment in which Guaranty operates, the economic outlook for its trade area and for the banking industry in general, the book value and financial

**Table of Contents**

condition of Guaranty, its future earnings and dividend paying capacity and Guaranty future business prospects. Hoefler & Arnett considered previous sales of Guaranty common stock, the market and trading volume in Guaranty common stock, the size of the block of stock being valued, the market price of selected publicly traded banking institutions and the premiums paid in the acquisition of publicly traded banking institutions.

*Stock Trading History.* Hoefler & Arnett reviewed previous trades of Guaranty common stock, which is thinly traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market (under the symbol GNTY ). For the period between January 1, 2005 and May 17, 2005, the average daily trading volume for Guaranty was 1,346 shares (0.05% of the outstanding common shares) and on many days there were no trades in the Guaranty common stock. From January 1, 2005 to May 17, 2005, as reported by the Nasdaq Stock Market, the low price was \$20.59 per share, the high price was \$23.38 per share, the closing price on May 17, 2005 was \$21.35 per share and the average closing price during the period was \$21.51 per share.

*Analysis of Publicly Traded Banking Organizations.* Hoefler & Arnett reviewed selected publicly traded banking organizations that are located in the southwestern region of the United States with total assets under \$1 billion and a return on assets greater than 0.00% (the Selected Public Companies ). Hoefler & Arnett compared financial performance ratios at Guaranty with financial performance ratios of the banking organizations making up the Selected Public Companies.

The following table compares selected performance and financial ratios of Guaranty at March 31, 2005 with the median ratios for the Selected Public Companies:

	<u>Guaranty</u>	<u>Selected Public Companies</u>
Total Assets	\$ 552.5 million	\$ 460.8 million
Return on Assets	0.72%	1.00%
Return on Equity	10.14%	10.97%
Equity to Assets	6.98%	8.62%
Nonperforming Assets to Assets	0.54%	0.25%

Hoefler & Arnett reviewed the multiples of price to stated book value, price to tangible book, price to earnings and dividend yield and calculated the median multiples for the Selected Public Companies. The median multiples were then applied to Guaranty's balance sheet information as of March 31, 2005, 2004 earnings, estimated 2005 earnings and estimated 2005 common dividends to derive an imputed range of values of Guaranty's common stock. The following table sets forth the median multiples as well as the imputed values based upon those median multiples:

	<u>Median Multiple</u>	<u>Implied Value</u>
Price / Book Value	1.51x	\$ 19.93
Price / Tangible Book Value	1.58x	\$ 19.59
Price / 2004 Earnings	15.1x	\$ 18.66
Price / Est. 2005 Earnings	15.1x	\$ 22.10
Dividend Value	1.49%	\$ 29.53

As illustrated in the above table, Hoefler & Arnett derived a range of imputed values of Guaranty common stock of \$18.66 to \$29.53, based upon the median multiples for the Selected Public Companies.

*Discounted Cash Flow Analysis.* Using a discounted cash flow analysis, Hoefer & Arnett estimated the net present value of the future streams of after-tax cash flow that Guaranty could produce to benefit a potential investor, referred to as dividendable net income, and added a terminal value. Hoefer & Arnett estimated a potential investor's cash flow based upon future dividends and a residual value. To calculate the residual value, Hoefer & Arnett assumed the sale of the stock at the end of five years. Hoefer & Arnett used the current trading multiples for both book and earnings to provide appropriate residual values and utilized a discount rate of 12%. This discounted cash flow analysis indicated implied values of \$18.65 per share and \$21.72 per share.

**Table of Contents**

Based on Hoefler & Arnett's review and analysis of the factors influencing value and utilizing the asset, market and income approaches without any discounts, it is the opinion of Hoefler & Arnett that, the fair value of the outstanding common stock of Guaranty as of June 7, 2005 was \$24.00 per share.

Based upon a fair value of \$24.00 per share, Hoefler & Arnett calculated the following ratios:

Fair value / March 31, 2005 book value	1.82x
Fair value / March 31, 2005 tangible book value	1.94x
Fair value / 2004 earnings	19.35x

*Accretion/Dilution Analysis.* Hoefler & Arnett analyzed the financial implications of the merger to the Guaranty shareholders that will remain following the merger. This analysis indicated the level of accretion to earnings per share that a shareholder of Guaranty would achieve on a pro forma basis including assumed cost savings. Based on conversations with Guaranty management, Hoefler & Arnett assumed that 61,749 shares will be cashed out, transaction costs of \$120,000, an opportunity cost of capital of 6.00% and cost savings of approximately \$350,000 per annum as a result of not having to comply with the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act and other requirements of being a public company. The table below summarizes these results:

	<u>2004 Earnings</u>
Guaranty Standalone	\$ 1.24
Pro Forma	1.28
% Accretion	3.23%

Hoefler & Arnett provided investment banking and financial advisory services to Guaranty in 1998 in connection with its initial public offering for which it received customary fees. Hoefler & Arnett provides a full range of financial advisory and securities services and, in the course of its normal trading activities, may effect transactions and hold securities of Guaranty for its own account and for the accounts of customers.

We will pay Hoefler & Arnett a fee of \$15,000 in connection with Hoefler & Arnett's acting as our financial advisor and rendering its opinion, which is not contingent upon the completion of the merger. In addition, we have agreed to indemnify Hoefler & Arnett against certain liabilities and expenses arising out of or incurred in connection with its engagement, including liabilities and expenses which may arise under the federal securities laws.

**Effects of the Merger on Guaranty**

The merger will have various effects on Guaranty, as described below.

**Reduction in the Number of Shareholders of Record.** We believe that the merger will reduce the number of record shareholders from approximately 430 to approximately 184. As noted earlier, in addition to the approximately 50,036 shares held by shareholders of record owning fewer than 600 shares, we assume that beneficial owners of approximately 11,713 shares held in street name will receive cash for their shares in

the merger. Accordingly, the number of outstanding shares of our common stock will decrease from 2,826,012, as of the record date, to approximately 2,764,263 after the merger.

**Decrease in Book Value and Effect on Earnings Per Share.** Based on the fact that (1) the price to be paid in the merger to holders of fewer than 600 shares of common stock will be \$24.00 per share, (2) the maximum number of shares of common stock expected to be cashed out as a result of the merger is 61,749, (3) the total cost to Guaranty (including expenses estimated to be approximately \$120,000) of effecting the merger is expected to be approximately \$1.6 million and (4) at March 31, 2005, shareholders' equity was \$38.5 million, or \$13.20 per share, we expect that, as a result of the merger:

our shareholders' equity as of March 31, 2005 will be reduced from approximately \$38.5 million on a historical basis to approximately \$37.0 million on a pro forma basis;

## Table of Contents

the book value per share of our common stock as of March 31, 2005 will be reduced from \$13.20 per share on a historical basis to approximately \$12.94 per share on a pro forma basis;

we will utilize existing cash on hand as well as funds generated from our operations to purchase the cashed-out shares and any dissenting shares, as well as to pay the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the merger, which management anticipates not to exceed \$1.6 million, assuming 61,749 shares are repurchased; and

diluted earnings per share of our common stock for the year ended December 31, 2004 will increase from \$1.24 on a historical basis to approximately \$1.31 on a pro forma basis and diluted earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2005 of \$0.33 will remain unchanged on a pro forma basis.

**Decrease in Capital.** As a result of the merger, our capital will be reduced. More specifically, our tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets ratio will decrease from 12.60% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 12.23% on a pro forma basis, our leverage capital ratio will decrease from 8.62% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 8.35% on a pro forma basis, and our total risk-based capital ratio will decrease from 13.78% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 13.42% on a pro forma basis. All regulatory capital ratios have been calculated assuming that 61,749 shares are cashed out in the merger.

**Termination of Exchange Act Reporting Obligations.** Our common stock is currently registered under the Exchange Act. After the merger, our common stock will not be registered under the Exchange Act and we will no longer be subject to the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act. More specifically, we will no longer be required to file (1) annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K presenting and analyzing our business, financial condition and results of operations, (2) ongoing reports regarding insiders' stock transactions and (3) proxy statements disclosing information about our directors and officers, their compensation and our corporate governance process. Accordingly, we expect to eliminate direct and indirect costs and expenses associated with continuance of the Exchange Act registration, estimated at approximately \$350,000 per year. We intend to apply for such termination as soon as practicable following completion of the merger.

**Effect on Market for Shares.** Our common stock is currently quoted on the Nasdaq Stock Market, but it will not be quoted on Nasdaq or listed on any exchange after the merger. Because we will no longer be quoted on the Nasdaq Stock Market or be required to maintain current public information by filing reports under the Exchange Act, the market for shares of our common stock will be adversely affected. Although there is currently only minimal liquidity in our shares of common stock, there will be a significant reduction in the liquidity of our common stock after the merger.

Further, the proposed amendment to our Articles of Incorporation provides Guaranty a right of first refusal with respect to certain future transfers of our common stock. If shareholders approve the amendment at the special meeting and the merger is completed, this right of first refusal may further reduce the liquidity of our common stock.

**Effect on Dividends.** The principal source of our cash revenues comes from dividends received from the Bank. The amount of dividends that may be paid by the Bank to us depends on the Bank's earnings and capital position and is limited by federal and state law, regulations, and policies. In addition to the availability of funds from the Bank, our future dividend policy is subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend upon a number of factors, including future earnings, financial condition, cash needs, and general business conditions. If dividends should be declared in the future, the amount of such dividends presently cannot be estimated and it cannot be known whether such dividends would continue for future periods.



## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

We anticipate that the merger will not have a material effect on our dividend policy, and we intend to continue paying a semi-annual cash dividend; however, any future declaration and payment of dividends will depend upon, among other factors, our results of operations and financial condition, future prospects, regulatory limitations and capital requirements, and other factors deemed relevant by our Board of Directors.

**Table of Contents**

**Financial Effects of the Merger; Financing of the Merger.** We expect that the purchase of the cashed-out shares in the merger will cost not more than approximately \$1.5 million which does not include approximately \$120,000 in professional fees and other expenses we anticipate incurring in the course of the transaction. In addition, we do not expect that the completion of the merger will have any material adverse effect on our capital adequacy, liquidity, results of operations or cash flow. Because we do not currently know the actual number of shares that will be cashed out in the merger, we do not know the exact amount of cash we will ultimately pay to shareholders in the merger. However, our obligation to consummate the merger under the merger agreement is conditioned on the aggregate number of shares of our common stock owned by shareholders who are to be cashed out or who have properly perfected their rights as dissenting shareholders not exceeding 100,000 shares.

**Increased Ownership Percentage of Executive Officers and Directors.** As a result of the merger, we expect that the percentage of ownership of our common stock beneficially owned by our current executive officers and directors as a group (12 persons) will increase from 33.39% to approximately 34.12%. For a description of the assumptions used in determining the numbers of shares and related percentages that we expect to be beneficially owned by executive officers and directors immediately following the merger, please see footnotes (1) and (2) under Information about Guaranty and its Affiliates Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management.

Our board of directors was aware of these interests and considered them in approving the merger agreement. See Special Factors Background of the Merger.

**Effects of the Merger on Shareholders Generally**

The merger will have various effects on our affiliated and unaffiliated shareholders as described below:

<u>Before the Merger</u>	<u>Net Effect After the Merger</u>
Shareholders holding fewer than 600 shares of our common stock	<p>You will receive \$24.00 in cash, for each share you own at the effective time of the merger.</p> <p>You will not have to pay any brokerage commissions or other service charges in connection with the merger.</p> <p>All amounts owed to you will be subject to applicable federal, state and local income taxes.</p> <p>You will have no further interest in Guaranty with respect to your cashed-out shares. Your only right will be to receive cash for those shares.</p> <p>You will receive a letter of transmittal from us as soon as practicable after the merger with instructions on how to surrender your existing certificate(s) in exchange for your cash payment.</p>

**NOTE:** If you want to continue to remain a shareholder after the merger, you may do so by purchasing a sufficient number of shares of our common stock prior to the effective time of the merger so that you hold at least 600 shares at the effective time of the merger.

As described in the section Proposal I: Approval of the Merger Agreement Conversion of Shares in the Merger, there are specific provisions regarding the treatment of shares held in nominee form, or street name. In determining the number of shares held beneficially in street name by

Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

any shareholder, we may, in our discretion, rely on no objection lists provided by any nominee holder. Further, after the merger, we will deliver to each shareholder who would appear to be entitled to receive cash in the merger in consideration for his or her shares a letter of transmittal requesting certain information from such shareholder and requiring the shareholder

## **Table of Contents**

to certify as to the number of shares actually held, whether in registered form, or in street name. Letters of transmittal will be delivered to any shareholder who (1) holds of record, or combined with any shares listed in clause (2), fewer than 600 shares, (2) according to records made available to us from the nominee holder for any shares held in street name, holds in street name, or combined with any shares held of record, fewer than 600 shares or (3) holds shares in street name and with respect to which we are not provided by the nominee holder the number of shares so held.

The effects of the merger to a shareholder will vary depending on whether all of the shareholder's shares will be cashed out in the merger. The determination of whether or not any particular shares of our common stock will be cashed out in the merger will be based on whether the holder of those shares holds either fewer than 600 shares or 600 or more shares. Since a shareholder may own shares for the benefit of another holder, a shareholder may beneficially own both shares that will be cashed out in the merger and shares that will remain outstanding in the merger. We expect that our executive officers and directors (12 persons) will continue to own beneficially a total of approximately 963,214 shares (including shares that may be acquired pursuant to the exercise of stock options), or approximately 34.12% of the outstanding shares immediately after the merger. We do not anticipate any affiliated shareholder's shares being cashed out in the merger. All of the effects to shareholders described below assume that the maximum of 61,749 shares are cashed out in the merger, unless otherwise noted.

**Effects on Cashed-Out Shareholders.** The effects of the merger on shareholders owning fewer than 600 shares immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will, upon consummation of the merger, include:

*Receipt of Cash.* Shareholders who own fewer than 600 shares of our common stock, in the aggregate, whether of record or in street name, will receive \$24.00 in cash per share.

*Loss of Ownership Interest.* Shareholders will no longer have any equity or voting interest in Guaranty and therefore will not receive any cash dividends or participate in our future potential earnings or growth, if any, as a shareholder.

*Taxes.* Shareholders will likely be required to pay federal and, if applicable, state and local income taxes on the cash amount received in the merger. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.

**Effects on Remaining Shareholders.** The effects of the merger on shareholders owning 600 or more shares immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will, upon consummation of the merger, include:

*Continued Ownership of Shares.* Shareholders who own 600 or more shares immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will continue to be shareholders of Guaranty and will own the same number of shares immediately after the merger as they owned immediately prior to the merger.

*Increased Ownership Percentage.* Remaining shareholders will have a slightly increased ownership percentage in Guaranty as a result of the merger.

*Decreased Access to Information.* If the merger is completed, we intend to terminate our registration under the Exchange Act. As a result, we will no longer be subject to the periodic reporting requirements and the proxy rules of the Exchange Act.

*Decreased Liquidity and Transfer Restrictions.* The liquidity of the shares of our common stock held by remaining shareholders will be reduced because our common stock will no longer be quoted on the Nasdaq Stock Market and we will have fewer shareholders.

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

Additionally, if the proposed amendment is approved by our shareholders, we will have a right of first refusal to purchase any shares of our common stock proposed to be transferred in a transaction that would increase the number of our record shareholders. The absence of an established trading market, a smaller shareholder base and the amendment to our Articles of Incorporation, if approved by shareholders, may restrict your ability to transfer your shares of common stock after the merger.

*Reduced Capital.* Our regulatory capital ratios will be reduced, including a decrease in our tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets ratio from 12.60% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 12.23% on a pro forma basis. Our other regulatory capital ratios will be similarly reduced: our leverage ratio will

**Table of Contents**

decrease from 8.62% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 8.35% on a pro forma basis; and our total risk-based capital ratio will decrease from 13.78% as of March 31, 2005 to approximately 13.42% on a pro forma basis.

*Reduced Book Value Per Share.* The book value per share of our common stock as of March 31, 2005 would be reduced from \$13.20 per share on a historical basis to approximately \$12.94 per share on a pro forma basis.

*Effect on Earnings Per Share.* Diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2004 would increase from \$1.24 on a historical basis to approximately \$1.31 on a pro forma basis, an increase of 5.65%. Diluted earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2005 of \$0.33 will remain unchanged on a pro forma basis.

*Increased Ownership Percentage of Executive Officers and Directors.* As a result of the merger, we expect that the percentage of ownership of common stock beneficially owned by our executive officers and directors (12 persons) as a group will increase from 33.39%, as of the record date, to approximately 34.12% on a pro forma basis (based on the number of shares we anticipate such executive officers and directors to own beneficially immediately after the merger).

**Effects of the Merger on Affiliated Shareholders**

In addition to the effects of the merger on shareholders generally, which are described in the previous section, the merger will have some additional effects on our executive officers and directors, each of whom is, a result of his or her position, deemed to be an affiliate of Guaranty. As used in this proxy statement, the term *affiliated shareholder* means any shareholder who is a director or executive officer of Guaranty or the beneficial owner of 10% or more of our outstanding common stock, and the term *unaffiliated shareholder* means any shareholder other than an affiliated shareholder.

*No Further Reporting Obligations Under the Exchange Act.* After the merger, our common stock will not be registered under the Exchange Act. As a result, our executive officers, directors and other affiliates will no longer be subject to many of the reporting requirements and restrictions of the Exchange Act, including the reporting and short-swing profit provisions of Section 16, and information about their compensation and stock ownership will not be publicly available.

*Rule 144 Not Available.* Because our common stock will not be registered under the Exchange Act after the merger and we will no longer be required to furnish publicly available periodic reports, our executive officers and directors will lose the ability to dispose of their shares of our common stock under Rule 144 of the Securities Act of 1933, which provides a *safe harbor* for resales of stock by affiliates of an issuer.

**Examples of Merger Results**

In general, the merger can be illustrated by the following examples:

<u>Hypothetical Scenario</u>	<u>Result</u>
Ms. Smith owns 500 shares of Guaranty common stock registered in her own name at the effective time of the merger. Ms. Smith holds no other shares.	Ms. Smith's 500 shares will be canceled and converted into the right to receive cash in the amount of \$24.00 per share.

If Ms. Smith wants to continue her investment in Guaranty, she would need to buy at least 100 shares of our common stock (preferably of record in her own name so as to make it more readily apparent that she holds 600 or more shares). Ms. Smith should act far enough in advance of the effective time of the merger so that the purchase is complete and registered on our books before the effective time of the merger.

**Table of Contents**

<u>Hypothetical Scenario</u>	<u>Result</u>
Mr. Brown owns 100 shares of Guaranty that are held in a brokerage account at the effective time of the merger. Mr. Brown owns no other shares.	Mr. Brown's 100 shares will be converted into the right to receive cash in an amount equal to \$24.00 per share, Mr. Brown will no longer be a shareholder of Guaranty.
Mr. Davis owns 500 shares of Guaranty registered in his own name and 500 shares that are held in a brokerage account at the effective time of the merger. Mr. Davis owns no other shares.	If either we or Mr. Davis can establish to our satisfaction that he, in fact, holds 600 or more shares, Mr. Davis' 1,000 shares will remain outstanding after the merger. Otherwise, we will presume that all of the shares are held by a holder of fewer than 600 shares and were therefore canceled in the merger and converted into the right to receive cash in an amount equal to \$24.00 per share. Mr. Davis will be able to rebut the presumption that his shares were cashed out in the merger by certifying in the letter of transmittal sent to him after the merger that he holds 600 or more shares and providing us such other information as it may request to verify that fact.

**Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger**

Our Board of Directors believes that it has acted in the best interests of Guaranty and its shareholders. However, as you consider the recommendation of the Board of Directors, you should be aware that the directors and executive officers have interests which are in addition to their interests as our shareholders. As a result of the merger, we expect that the beneficial ownership of our common stock held by current executive officers and directors (12 persons) as a group will increase from 33.39% to approximately 34.12%. See Information about Guaranty and its Affiliates Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management.

Our Board of Directors was aware of these interests and considered them in approving the merger agreement. See Special Factors Background of the Merger.

**Conduct of Guaranty's Business After the Merger**

Following the merger, Guaranty and its subsidiaries, including the Bank, will continue to conduct their existing operations in substantially the same manner as now conducted. Our executive officers and directors immediately prior to the merger will be the executive officers and directors of Guaranty after the merger. Except for the change that would result from the amendment (if approved by the shareholders at the special meeting), the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Guaranty will remain in effect and unchanged by the merger. The deposits of the Bank will continue to be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Guaranty and the Bank will continue to be regulated by the same regulatory agencies as before the merger.

**Fees and Expenses**

We estimate that merger related fees and expenses, consisting primarily of financial advisory fees, SEC filing fees, fees and expenses of attorneys and accountants and other related charges, will total approximately \$120,000, assuming the merger is completed. This amount consists of the following estimated fees:



<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Advisory fees and expenses	\$ 15,000
Legal fees and expenses	75,000
Accounting fees and expenses	10,000
Printing, solicitation and mailing costs	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>

## **Table of Contents**

### **Anticipated Accounting Treatment**

We anticipate that we will account for the shares of our outstanding common stock repurchased in the merger as treasury shares.

### **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences**

The following discussion summarizes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to our shareholders with respect to the merger. The discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, applicable U.S. Treasury regulations, existing administrative interpretations and court decisions currently in effect. Any of these authorities could be repealed, overruled or modified at any time after the date of this proxy statement, and any such change could be applied retroactively. This discussion does not address any alternative minimum tax consequences or the tax consequences under state, local or foreign laws.

The discussion that follows neither binds nor precludes the Internal Revenue Service from adopting a position contrary to that expressed in this document, and we cannot assure you that such a contrary position could not be asserted successfully by the Internal Revenue Service or adopted by a court if the positions were litigated. We have not obtained a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or a written opinion from tax counsel with respect to the United States federal income tax consequences discussed below.

This discussion assumes that you hold your shares of our common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code. This discussion is only for general information and does not address all aspects of federal income taxation that may be important to you in light of your particular circumstances or if you are subject to certain rules, such as those rules relating to shareholders who are not citizens or residents of the United States, financial institutions, tax-exempt organizations and entities (including IRAs), insurance companies, dealers in securities, shareholders who hold options to acquire shares of our common stock, and shareholders who acquired their shares of common stock through the exercise of employee stock options or similar derivative securities or otherwise as compensation.

*Federal income tax consequences to shareholders who do not receive cash in the merger.* If you (1) continue to hold shares of our common stock immediately after the merger, and (2) you receive no cash as a result of the merger, then you will not recognize any gain or loss in the merger and you will have the same adjusted tax basis and holding period in your shares of our common stock as you had in such stock immediately prior to the merger.

*Federal income tax consequences to shareholders who receive cash in the merger.* An exchange of your shares of our common stock for cash pursuant to the merger will be a taxable transaction. If you receive cash in exchange for your shares of common stock as a result of the merger, the cash you received will be treated as redemption of your shares of our common stock exchanged therefor under Section 302 of the Internal Revenue Code. Under Section 302 of the Internal Revenue Code, a shareholder who exchanges his or her shares of our common stock for cash will be treated as having sold his or her shares of our common stock if the exchange meets one of the following three tests:

the exchange results in a complete termination of his or her equity interest in Guaranty;

the exchange is substantially disproportionate with respect to the shareholder; or

the cash received is not essentially equivalent to a dividend with respect to the shareholder.

For purposes of these tests, in addition to the shares of common stock you actually own, you will be deemed to own constructively certain shares of our common stock under the constructive ownership rules of Section 318 of the Internal Revenue Code. Generally, the constructive ownership rules under Section 318 of the Internal Revenue Code treat a shareholder as owning:

shares of stock owned by certain relatives, related corporations, partnerships, estates or trusts, and

shares of stock the shareholder has an option to acquire.

## **Table of Contents**

Because the constructive ownership rules are complex, each shareholder should consult his or her own tax advisor as to the applicability of these rules.

*Cashed-out shareholders who do not actually or constructively own any shares of Guaranty common stock after the merger.* In general, if you receive cash in exchange for your shares of our common stock as a result of the merger but do not actually or constructively own any shares of our common stock immediately after the merger, you will be treated as having sold your shares of our common stock for the cash received. You will recognize gain or loss on the exchange in an amount equal to the difference between the cash you receive for your cashed-out shares of our common stock and your aggregate adjusted tax basis in such stock. Your gain will be a capital gain provided you held your shares of our common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code as of the effective time of the merger.

*Shareholders receiving cash who actually or constructively continue to own any shares of Guaranty common stock after the merger.* If you receive cash in exchange for your shares of our common stock as a result of the merger and are treated as directly or constructively owning shares of our common stock immediately after the merger, then you will be treated as having sold your shares of our common stock for the cash received only if you meet one of the three tests mentioned above and described below.

You will satisfy the **complete termination** test if you receive cash in exchange for your shares of our common stock pursuant to the merger and you completely terminate your direct and constructive ownership interest in Guaranty. If you would otherwise satisfy the complete termination requirement but for your constructive ownership of shares of our common stock held by family members, you may, in certain circumstances, be entitled to disregard such constructive ownership. You should check with your own tax advisor as to whether you would be entitled to disregard such constructive ownership and the required filings with the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to such a decision.

You will satisfy the **substantially disproportionate** test if immediately after the merger you actually and constructively own less than 50% of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote and your percentage interest in Guaranty (i.e., the number of voting shares actually and constructively owned by you divided by the number of voting shares outstanding) is less than 80% of your percentage interest in Guaranty immediately prior to the merger.

You will satisfy the **not essentially equivalent to a dividend** test if the reduction in your percentage interest in Guaranty, as described above, constitutes a **meaningful reduction of your proportionate interest** given your particular facts and circumstances. The Internal Revenue Service has indicated in published rulings that a minority shareholder whose relative stock interest is minimal (i.e., less than 1%) and who exercises no control with respect to corporate affairs is considered to have a **meaningful reduction** generally if the shareholder has some reduction in the shareholder's stock ownership percentage.

If you satisfy one of these three tests, you will be treated as having sold your shares of Guaranty common stock for the cash exchanged therefore and will recognize gain or loss on the exchange in an amount equal to the difference between the cash you receive for your cashed-out shares of our common stock and your aggregate adjusted tax basis in such stock. Your gain will be a capital gain provided you held your shares of our common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code as of the effective time of the merger.

If you do not satisfy one of these three tests, you will be treated as having received a dividend to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, which we anticipate will be sufficient to cover the amount of any such dividend and will be includible in your gross income as ordinary income in its entirety, without reduction for the adjusted tax basis of your shares of our common stock exchanged for cash. No loss will be recognized. If the exchange is treated as a dividend, your adjusted tax basis in your shares of our common stock exchanged for cash generally will be added to your tax basis in your remaining shares of our common stock. To the extent that cash received in exchange for your

shares of our common stock is treated as a dividend to a

## **Table of Contents**

corporate shareholder, the corporate shareholder will be: (1) eligible for a dividends-received deduction (subject to applicable limitations); and (2) subject to the extraordinary dividend provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. To the extent, if any, the cash received by you exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, it will be treated first as a tax-free return of your adjusted tax basis in the shares surrendered and thereafter as a capital gain.

*Capital gain and loss.* For individuals, net capital gain (defined generally as your total capital gains in excess of capital losses for the year) recognized upon the sale of capital assets that have been held for more than 12 months generally will be subject to tax at a rate not to exceed 15%. Net capital gain recognized from the sale of capital assets that have been held for 12 months or less will continue to be subject to tax at ordinary income tax rates. In addition, capital gain recognized by a corporate taxpayer will continue to be subject to tax at the ordinary income tax rates applicable to corporations. There are limitations on the deductibility of capital losses.

*Backup withholding.* If you receive cash in the merger, you will be required to provide your social security or other taxpayer identification numbers (or, in some instances, additional information) in connection with the merger to avoid backup withholding requirements that might otherwise apply. The letter of transmittal will require you to deliver such information when your shares of our common stock certificates are surrendered following the effective time of the merger. Failure to provide such information may result in backup withholding.

**As explained above, the amounts paid to you as a result of the merger may result in dividend income, capital gain income, or some combination of dividend and capital gain income to you depending on your individual circumstances. The U.S. federal income tax discussion set forth above is based upon present law, which is subject to change possibly with retroactive effect. You should consult your tax advisor as to the particular federal, state, local, foreign, and other tax consequences of the transaction that are applicable to you in light of your specific circumstances.**

## **Regulatory Requirements**

In connection with the merger, we will be required to make certain filings with and obtain certain approvals from various federal and state governmental agencies, including:

filing of Articles of Merger with the Secretary of State of Texas in accordance with the TBCA after the approval of the merger agreement by our shareholders; and

complying with federal and state securities laws, including our and the merger subsidiary's filing, in conjunction with this proxy statement, of a Rule 13e-3 Transaction Statement on Schedule 13E-3 with the SEC.

**Table of Contents****SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following table summarizes financial results actually achieved by Guaranty for the periods and at the dates indicated and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in reports that we have previously filed with the SEC. Historical financial information can be found in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2005 and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, which are incorporated by reference in this proxy statement. See *Where You Can Find Additional Information* on page 54 for instructions on how to obtain the information that has been incorporated by reference. Financial amounts as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and March 31, 2004 are unaudited, but management of Guaranty believes that such amounts reflect all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair presentation of its results of operations and financial position as of the dates and for the periods indicated. You should not assume the results of operations for past periods and for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and 2004 indicate results for any future period.

	As of and for the		As of and for the		
	Three Months Ended		Year Ended		
	March 31,		December 31,		
	2005	2004	2004	2003	2002
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)					
<b>Income Statement Data:</b>					
Interest income	\$ 7,142	\$ 6,700	\$ 27,029	\$ 27,564	\$ 28,955
Interest expense	2,643	2,150	9,137	10,242	12,272
Net interest income	4,499	4,550	17,892	17,322	16,683
Provision for loan losses	200	250	930	1,075	1,260
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	4,299	4,300	16,962	16,247	15,423
Noninterest income	1,391	1,228	4,756	4,937	5,056
Noninterest expense	4,247	4,114	16,483	15,837	14,692
Earnings before provision for income taxes	1,443	1,414	5,235	5,347	5,787
Provision for income taxes	460	382	1,575	1,503	1,410
Net earnings	\$ 983	\$ 1,032	\$ 3,660	\$ 3,844	\$ 4,377
<b>Common Share Data:</b>					
Basic earnings per share (1)	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.35	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.46
Diluted earnings per share (1)	0.33	0.35	1.24	1.30	1.45
Book value	13.20	12.88	13.26	12.47	11.81
Tangible book value	12.40	12.08	12.46	11.67	11.01
Cash dividends declared			0.40	0.37	0.32
Dividend payout ratio			31.88%	28.12%	21.73%
Weighted average shares outstanding (basic) (in thousands)	2,912	2,922	2,918	2,923	2,991
Weighted average shares outstanding (diluted) (in thousands)	2,955	2,966	2,963	2,953	3,013
Shares outstanding at end of period (in thousands)	2,920	2,922	2,913	2,922	2,932
<b>Balance Sheet Data (at period end):</b>					
Total assets	\$ 552,512	\$ 518,997	\$ 541,966	\$ 517,078	\$ 517,968
Securities	111,842	92,811	103,751	99,614	106,992
Loans held for sale	2,666	1,263	1,749	1,244	5,727

Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

Loans	379,806	366,639	375,585	364,270	359,888
Allowance for loan losses	4,418	4,029	4,154	3,906	3,692
Total deposits	444,031	415,855	433,743	407,847	424,950
Total shareholders equity	38,543	37,629	38,624	36,448	34,644



**Table of Contents**

	As of and for the		As of and for the		
	Three Months Ended		Year Ended		
	March 31,		December 31,		
	2005	2004	2004	2003	2002
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)					
<b>Average Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Total assets	\$ 548,633	\$ 517,320	\$ 527,025	\$ 524,675	\$ 490,620
Securities	111,305	95,897	97,549	109,325	91,710
Loans (2)	378,350	363,841	371,586	359,829	342,823
Allowance for loan losses	4,249	3,932	4,091	3,767	3,485
Total deposits	437,989	413,166	420,592	423,283	403,125
Total shareholders' equity	38,767	37,230	37,687	35,496	33,934
<b>Performance Ratios:</b>					
Return on average assets	0.73%	0.80%	0.69%	0.73%	0.89%
Return on average common equity	10.28	11.15	9.71	10.83	12.90
Net interest margin	3.61	3.90	3.71	3.63	3.73
Efficiency ratio (3)	72.11	71.72	73.17	71.75	68.79
<b>Asset Quality Ratios (4):</b>					
Nonperforming assets to total loans and other real estate	0.99%	1.12%	1.13%	0.90%	1.18%
Net charge-offs to average loans	(0.02)	3.00	0.18	0.24	0.27
Allowance for loan losses to total loans	1.16	1.10	1.10	1.07	1.01
Allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans (5)	139.15	124.24	116.16	152.52	114.87
<b>Capital Ratios (4):</b>					
Leverage ratio	8.62%	8.76%	8.73%	8.32%	8.62%
Average shareholders' equity to average total assets	7.07	7.20	7.15	6.77	6.92
Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	12.60	12.49	12.52	12.10	12.06
Total risk-based capital ratio	13.78	13.60	13.65	13.18	13.12

- (1) Net earnings per share are based upon the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period.
- (2) Includes loans held for sale.
- (3) Calculated by dividing total noninterest expense by net interest income plus noninterest income, excluding securities losses or gains. Taxes are not part of this calculation.
- (4) At period end, except for net charge-offs to average loans and average shareholders' equity to average total assets, which is for periods ended at such dates.
- (5) Nonperforming loans consist of nonaccrual loans, loans contractually past due 90 days or more and restructured loans.

**Table of Contents****CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following sets forth our consolidated ratios of earnings to fixed charges for each of the two years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2004 and for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and the pro forma consolidated earnings to fixed charges ratio for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and the year ended December 31, 2004, which gives effect to the merger as if it had occurred on January 1 of the applicable year. The information presented below is derived from (1) our consolidated historical financial statements, including the related notes, incorporated by reference into this proxy statement and (2) our unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and for the year ended December 31, 2004 included in this proxy statement.

	<b>Pro Forma Three Months Ended March 31, 2005</b>	<b>Pro Forma Year Ended December 31, 2004</b>	<b>Three Months Ended March 31, 2005</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2004</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2003</b>
<b>Earnings to Fixed Charges</b>					
Including interest on deposits	1.53x	1.60x	1.55x	1.57x	1.52x
Excluding interest on deposits	2.84x	2.78x	2.88x	2.71x	2.78x

For purposes of computing these ratios, earnings represent net income, plus applicable income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges include gross interest expense, other than interest on deposits in one case and inclusive of such interest in the other, and the proportion deemed representative of the interest factor or rent expense, net of income from subleases.

**Table of Contents**

**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The following unaudited pro forma consolidated financial information as of March 31, 2005 and for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and the year ended December 31, 2004, give effect to the following assumptions:

We have assumed that the merger occurred as of March 31, 2005 for purposes of the consolidated balance sheet, and as of January 1 of the earliest indicated period for purposes of the consolidated statements of earnings.

We have assumed that a total of 61,749 shares are cashed out in the merger at a price of \$24.00 per share for a total of approximately \$1.5 million. Additionally, we have assumed that we will incur approximately \$120,000 in costs and expenses relating to the merger.

We have assumed that the maximum amount of cash necessary to consummate the merger to be approximately \$1.6 million.

We have assumed that we will realize cost savings, estimated to be approximately \$350,000 per year as a result of the merger.

We have assumed that the expenses and anticipated cost savings in connection with the merger will be tax effected at a rate of 34%.

The following information should be read in conjunction with and is qualified in its entirety by our consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes, which are incorporated by reference into this proxy statement.

The unaudited pro forma consolidated financial information is intended for informational purposes and is not necessarily indicative of our financial position or operating results that would have occurred had the merger actually been in effect as of the date or for the period presented.

**Table of Contents****Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Balance Sheet**

As of March 31, 2005

	Historical		Pro Forma
	March 31, 2005	Adjustments	March 31, 2005
	(Dollars in thousands)		
<b>Assets:</b>			
Cash and due from banks	\$ 16,055	\$	\$ 16,055
Federal funds sold	5,395	(1,561) <sup>(1)</sup>	3,834
Interest-bearing deposits	206		206
Interest-bearing time deposits	12,823		12,823
Securities available-for-sale	111,842		111,842
Loans held for sale	2,666		2,666
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses	375,388		375,388
Premises and equipment, net	13,501		13,501
Accrued interest receivable	2,849		2,849
Other real estate	617		617
Goodwill	2,338		2,338
Cash surrender value of life insurance	5,304		5,304
Other assets	3,528		3,528
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 552,512</b>	<b>\$ (1,561)</b>	<b>\$ 550,951</b>
<b>Liabilities and Shareholders Equity:</b>			
<b>Deposits</b>			
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 86,600		\$ 86,600
Interest-bearing	357,431		357,431
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>444,031</b>		<b>444,031</b>
Accrued interest and other liabilities	4,169		4,169
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	55,459		55,459
Junior subordinated debentures	10,310		10,310
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 513,969</b>		<b>\$ 513,969</b>
<b>Shareholders equity</b>			
Common stock, 50,000,000 shares authorized, 3,252,016 shares issued and 2,919,725 outstanding as of March 31, 2005, and 3,252,016 shares issued and 2,857,976 shares outstanding on a pro forma basis	\$ 3,252	\$	\$ 3,252
Additional paid-in-capital	12,864		12,864
Retained earnings	27,388	(79) <sup>(2)</sup>	27,309
Treasury stock, at cost, 332,291 shares as of March 31, 2005 and 394,040 shares on a pro forma basis	(4,101)	(1,482)	(5,583)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(860)		(860)
<b>Total shareholders equity</b>	<b>38,543</b>	<b>(1,561)</b>	<b>36,982</b>
<b>Total liabilities and shareholders equity</b>	<b>\$ 552,512</b>	<b>\$ (1,561)</b>	<b>\$ 550,951</b>

Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

- (1) This adjustment represents the payment of cash consideration payable in the merger.
- (2) This adjustment represents the estimated expenses in connection with the merger of \$120,000, less the tax benefit of \$41,000.

**Table of Contents****Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Statement of Earnings****for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2005**

	Historical		Pro Forma
	Three Months Ended March 31, 2005	Adjustments	Three Months Ended March 31, 2005
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)			
Interest income			
Loans, including fees	\$ 5,909		\$ 5,909
Securities			
Taxable	970		970
Nontaxable	150		150
Federal funds sold and interest-bearing deposits	113		113
<b>Total interest income</b>	<b>7,142</b>		<b>7,142</b>
Interest expense			
Deposits	1,877		1,877
FHLB advances and federal funds purchased	516		516
Junior subordinated debentures	250		250
<b>Total interest expense</b>	<b>2,643</b>		<b>2,643</b>
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>4,499</b>		<b>4,499</b>
Provision for loan losses	200		200
<b>Net interest income after provision for loan losses</b>	<b>4,299</b>		<b>4,299</b>
Noninterest income			
Service charges	700		700
Other operating income	691		691
<b>Total noninterest income</b>	<b>1,391</b>		<b>1,391</b>
Noninterest expense			
Salaries and benefits	2,556		2,556
Occupancy expenses	537		537
Other operating expenses	1,154	\$ 32 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,186
<b>Total noninterest expenses</b>	<b>4,247</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4,279</b>
<b>Earnings before provision for income taxes</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>1,411</b>
Provision for income taxes	460	(11) <sup>(2)</sup>	449
<b>Net earnings</b>	<b>\$ 983</b>	<b>\$ (21)</b>	<b>\$ 962</b>
Earnings per common share basic	\$ 0.34		\$ 0.34
Earnings per common share diluted	0.33		0.33

(1)

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

This adjustment represents the estimated expenses in connection with the transaction of \$120,000, less the cost savings of approximately \$88,000 on a quarterly basis that we expect to realize as a result of the merger.

- (2) This adjustment represents the estimated tax effect at 34%.

**Table of Contents**

**Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Statement of Earnings**  
**for the Year Ended December 31, 2004**

	Historical	Adjustments	Pro Forma
	Year Ended December 31, 2004		Year Ended December 31, 2004
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)			
Interest income			
Loans, including fees	\$ 22,990		\$ 22,990
Securities			
Taxable	3,559		3,559
Nontaxable	210		210
Federal funds sold and interest-bearing deposits	270		270
<b>Total interest income</b>	<b>27,029</b>		<b>27,029</b>
Interest expense			
Deposits	6,072		6,072
FHLB advances and federal funds purchased	2,061		2,061
Junior subordinated debentures	1,004		1,004
<b>Total interest expense</b>	<b>9,137</b>		<b>9,137</b>
Net interest income	17,892		17,892
Provision for loan losses	930		930
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	16,962		16,962
Noninterest income			
Service charges	3,036		3,036
Net realized gain on securities transactions	120		120
Other operating income	1,600		1,600
<b>Total noninterest income</b>	<b>4,756</b>		<b>4,756</b>
Noninterest expense			
Salaries and benefits	9,326		9,326
Occupancy expenses	2,260		2,260
Other operating expenses	4,897	\$ (230) <sup>(1)</sup>	4,667
<b>Total noninterest expenses</b>	<b>16,483</b>	<b>(230)</b>	<b>16,253</b>
Earnings before provision for income taxes	5,235	230	5,465
Provision for income taxes	1,575	78 <sup>(2)</sup>	1,653
<b>Net earnings</b>	<b>\$ 3,660</b>	<b>\$ 152</b>	<b>\$ 3,812</b>
Earnings per common share basic	\$ 1.25		\$ 1.33
Earnings per common share diluted	1.24		1.31

(1) This adjustment represents the estimated expenses in connection with the transaction of \$120,000, less the cost savings of approximately \$350,000 on an annual basis that we expect to realize as a result of the merger.



- (2) This adjustment represents the estimated tax effect at 34%.

**Table of Contents**

**THE SPECIAL MEETING**

**Purpose**

This proxy statement is furnished to our shareholders in connection with the solicitation of proxies by our Board of Directors for use at the special meeting. The special meeting is a meeting of the shareholders of Guaranty at which the shareholders will vote upon a proposal to approve the merger agreement and a proposal to approve an amendment to our Articles of Incorporation. A copy of the merger agreement is attached as *Appendix A* and the full text of the proposed amendment is attached as *Appendix B*.

**Date, Place and Time of Special Meeting**

The special meeting of our shareholders will be held at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m., local time, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, at the main office of the Bank at 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455.

**Shares Entitled to Vote; Quorum and Vote Required**

*Shares Entitled to Vote.* The holders of record of the outstanding shares of our common stock at the close of business on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, the record date, will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting. At the close of business on that date, there were \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting.

*Quorum.* At the special meeting, our shareholders will be entitled to one vote for each share of our common stock owned of record on the record date. The holders of a majority of our common stock outstanding must be present, either in person or by proxy, to constitute a quorum at the special meeting. Shares of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy, including shares whose holders abstain or do not vote and shares held of record by a broker or nominee that are voted on any matter, will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists at the special meeting.

*Votes Required.* The affirmative vote of a majority of the issued and outstanding Guaranty common stock is required to approve both the merger agreement and the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. The affirmative vote of at least a majority of our common stock present at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, is required to approve any other matters that may be properly presented at the special meeting.

*Abstentions.* A shareholder who is present in person or by proxy at the special meeting and who abstains from voting on any or all proposals will be included in the number of shareholders present at the special meeting for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. However, because approval of the merger agreement and the amendment each require a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of our common stock, an abstention would effectively function as a vote against the merger agreement and the amendment, even though it would not be counted in the voting tally as such. Abstentions will not affect the outcome of any other proposal that may be properly brought before the special meeting because only a majority of the votes actually cast must be voted in favor of such a proposal.

*Broker Non-Votes.* Generally, brokers who hold shares for the accounts of beneficial owners must vote these shares as directed by the beneficial owner. Both the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the proposal to approve the amendment are non-discretionary items, meaning that brokers and banks may not give a proxy to vote shares on those matters without specific instructions from their customers. Proxies that contain a broker vote on one or more proposals but no vote on others are referred to as broker non-votes with respect to the proposal(s) not voted upon. A broker non-vote with respect to a proposal for which the broker has no discretionary voting authority against the merger agreement and a vote against the amendment but will not affect the outcome of any other proposal properly brought before the special meeting.

On the record date, our directors and executive officers (12 persons) were entitled to vote, in the aggregate, 904,314 shares of our common stock (not including any shares that may be acquired pursuant to the exercise of

## **Table of Contents**

stock options), or approximately % of the outstanding shares of our common stock. These shares are expected to be voted FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. If these shares are voted in favor of the merger agreement and the amendment, then shareholders owning an additional shares would be required to vote in favor of the merger in order for the proposals to receive approval by a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock.

A list of shareholders will be available for examination by holders of the our common stock for any purpose related to the special meeting at the special meeting and during the 10 days prior to the special meeting at the office of our corporate secretary at our offices at 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455.

**Our Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.**

## **Voting Procedures and Revocation of Proxies**

Proxies, in the form enclosed, which are properly executed by the shareholders and returned to us and not subsequently revoked, will be voted in accordance with the instructions indicated on the proxies. Any properly executed proxy on which voting instructions are not specified will be voted FOR the proposal to approve the merger agreement and FOR the proposal to approve the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. The proxy also grants authority to the persons designated in the proxy to vote in accordance with their own judgment if an unscheduled matter is properly brought before the special meeting.

If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke any proxy given pursuant to this solicitation by the Board of Directors at any time before it is voted at the special meeting by:

giving written notice to the Secretary of Guaranty;

executing a proxy bearing a later date filed with the Secretary of Guaranty at or before the meeting; or

attending and voting in person at the meeting. Attendance without voting at the special meeting will not in and of itself constitute revocation of a proxy.

All written notices of revocation and other communications with respect to revocation or proxies should be sent to: Guaranty Bancshares, Inc., 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455, Attention: Kim Shumate. If you hold your shares in street name with a bank or broker, you must contact the bank or broker if you wish to revoke your proxy.

## **Attending the Special Meeting**

All of our shareholders are invited to attend the special meeting. If you want to vote your shares of our common stock held in street name by a broker, bank or other nominee in person at the special meeting, you will have to get a written proxy in your name from the broker, bank or other nominee who holds your shares.

### **Solicitation of Proxies and Expenses**

This proxy solicitation is made by our Board of Directors. We are responsible for our expenses incurred in preparing, assembling, printing and mailing this proxy statement. Proxies will be solicited through the mail. Additionally, directors, officers and other employees of Guaranty or its subsidiaries may solicit proxies personally, by telephone or other means of communications. None of these people will receive any special compensation for solicitation activities. We will reimburse banks, brokers and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable expenses in forwarding the proxy materials to beneficial owners.

## Table of Contents

### **PROPOSAL I: APPROVAL OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT**

#### **Parties to the Merger**

**Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.** Guaranty was incorporated as a business corporation under the laws of the State of Texas in 1980 to serve as a holding company for Guaranty Bond Bank, formally known as Guaranty Bank, (the Bank ), which was chartered in 1913, and for Talco State Bank, which was chartered in 1912 and merged into the Bank in 1997. We offer a broad range of financial products and services to small and medium-sized businesses and consumers through twelve banking locations in the Texas communities Mt. Pleasant (two offices), Bogata, Commerce, Ft. Stockton, Mount Vernon, Paris, Pittsburg, Sulphur Springs, Talco and Texarkana (two offices). Guaranty's headquarters are located at 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455, and its telephone number is (903) 572-9881.

**GB Facilitation, Inc.** The merger subsidiary is a newly formed Texas corporation, organized solely for the purpose of facilitating the merger agreement, and is our wholly-owned subsidiary. The merger subsidiary will merge with and into Guaranty and will cease to exist after the merger. The merger subsidiary has no significant assets, liabilities or shareholders' equity, and has conducted no business activities other than those incidental to its formation, the execution of the merger agreement and assistance in preparing various SEC filings related to the merger. The principal executive offices of merger subsidiary are located at 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455.

#### **Structure of the Merger**

The merger agreement provides for the merger of the merger subsidiary with and into Guaranty, with Guaranty surviving the merger. In the merger, shareholders owning fewer than 600 shares of Guaranty common stock will receive \$24.00 in cash for each share that they own as of the effective time of the merger. All other shares will remain outstanding and be unaffected by the merger. Our directors and executive officers after the merger will be the same as our directors and executive officers immediately prior to the merger.

#### **Conversion of Shares in the Merger**

The merger agreement provides that, at the effective time of the merger:

all outstanding shares of our common stock, whether record shares (as defined below) or street shares (as defined below), held of record by a holder holding fewer than 600 shares of Guaranty common stock immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will, without any action on the part of the holder thereof, be converted into the right to receive cash equal to \$24.00 per share (the merger consideration ). We may presume that all street shares are held by holders holding fewer than 600 shares immediately prior to the effective time unless a beneficial owner of street shares is able to demonstrate to our satisfaction that such shares are held beneficially by a holder holding 600 or more shares immediately prior to the effective time of the merger. In that case, such shares will remain outstanding with all rights, privileges, and powers existing immediately before the merger;

all outstanding shares of our common stock other than those described above as being converted into the right to receive the merger consideration or shares for which dissenters' rights have been exercised will remain outstanding with all rights, privileges, and powers existing immediately before the merger; and

the outstanding shares of the merger subsidiary will, without any action on the part of the holder thereof, be canceled.

The merger agreement further provides that:

immediately prior to the merger, no holder holding, of record or beneficially, 600 or more shares (including any combination of record shares or street shares) in the aggregate will be entitled to receive any merger consideration with respect to the shares so held other than by exercising his or her dissenters' rights; and

**Table of Contents**

it is a condition precedent to the right of any holder to receive the merger consideration, if any, payable with respect to the shares held by such holder that such holder certify to Guaranty in the letter of transmittal delivered by us as described below that such holder held, of record and beneficially, immediately prior to the merger fewer than 600 shares (including any combination of record shares and street shares) in the aggregate.

For purposes of the merger agreement:

the term **record shares** means shares of Guaranty common stock other than street shares, and any record shares will be deemed to be held by the registered holder thereof as reflected on our books;

the term **street shares** means shares of Guaranty common stock held of record in street name, and any street shares will be deemed to be held by the beneficial owner thereof as reflected on the books of the nominee holder thereof; and

the term **holder** means:

- (a) any record holder or holders of record shares who would be deemed, under Rule 12g5-1 under the Exchange Act as described below, to be a **single person** for purposes of determining the number of our record shareholders, and
- (b) any other person or persons who would be deemed to be a **holder** under the above clause if the shares it holds beneficially in street name were held of record by such person or persons.

The merger agreement provides that Guaranty (along with any other person or entity to which Guaranty may delegate or assign any responsibility or task with respect thereto) will have full discretion and exclusive authority (subject to its right and power to so delegate or assign such authority) to:

make such inquiries, whether of any shareholder(s) or otherwise, as it may deem appropriate for purposes of confirming the above provisions, and

resolve and determine, in our sole discretion, all ambiguities, questions of fact and interpretive and other matters relating to such provisions, including, without limitation, any questions as to the number of shares held by any holder immediately prior to the merger. All such determinations by us will be final and binding on all parties, and no person or entity will have any recourse against us or any other person or entity with respect thereto.

For purposes of the above provisions, we may, in our sole discretion, but will not have any obligation to do so,

presume that any shares of Guaranty common stock held in a discrete account (whether record or beneficial) are held by a person distinct from any other person, notwithstanding that the registered or beneficial holder of a separate discrete account has the same or a similar name as the holder of a separate discrete account; and

aggregate the shares held (whether of record or beneficially) by any person or persons that we determine to constitute a single holder for purposes of determining the number of shares held by such holder.



Rule 12g5-1 under the Exchange Act provides that, for the purpose of determining whether an issuer is subject to the registration provisions of the Exchange Act, securities will be deemed to be held of record by each person who is identified as the owner of such securities on records of security holders maintained by or on behalf of the issuer, subject to the following:

In any case where the records of security holders have not been maintained in accordance with accepted practice, any additional person who would be identified as such an owner on such records if they had been maintained in accordance with accepted practice will be included as a holder of record.

Securities identified as held of record by a corporation, a partnership, a trust whether or not the trustees are named, or other organization will be included as so held by one person.

### **Table of Contents**

Securities identified as held of record by one or more persons as trustees, executors, guardians, custodians or in other fiduciary capacities with respect to a single trust, estate or account will be included as held of record by one person.

Securities held by two or more persons as co-owners will be included as held by one person.

Securities registered in substantially similar names where the issuer has reason to believe because of the address or other indications that such names represent the same person, may be included as held of record by one person.

### **Effect on Outstanding Options**

The holders of outstanding stock options issued by Guaranty will continue to hold those securities. The terms of the options will not be affected by the merger.

### **Effective Time of the Merger**

The merger will be effective at the date and time specified in the Certificate of Merger to be issued by the Secretary of State of Texas. As soon as practicable after shareholder approval of the merger agreement, we will file Articles of Merger with the Secretary of State of Texas and will send a Letter of Transmittal to all record holders of Guaranty common stock who are entitled to receive cash in the merger. We anticipate that this will occur in September of 2005.

At the effective time of the merger, each shareholder who owns fewer than 600 shares of record immediately prior to the merger will not have any rights as a Guaranty shareholder and will have only the right to receive cash as provided under the merger agreement.

### **Exchange of Shares**

The Letter of Transmittal will provide the means by which shareholders will surrender their certificates representing Guaranty common stock and obtain the cash to which they are entitled. If certificates evidencing our common stock have been lost or destroyed, we and our transfer agent may, in our sole discretion, accept a duly executed affidavit and indemnity agreement of loss or destruction in a form satisfactory to us in lieu of the lost or destroyed certificate. If a certificate is lost or destroyed, the shareholder will be required to submit, in addition to other documents, a bond or other security, satisfactory to us and our transfer agent, indemnifying us and all other persons against any losses incurred as a consequence of the issuance of a new stock certificate. Shareholders whose certificates have been lost or destroyed should contact us. Additional instructions regarding lost or destroyed stock certificates will be included in the Letter of Transmittal that will be sent to shareholders after the merger becomes effective.

Except as described above with respect to lost stock certificates, there will be no service charges or costs payable by shareholders in connection with the exchange of their certificates for cash in the merger. We will bear these costs.

**The Letter of Transmittal will be sent to shareholders as soon as practicable after the effective time of the merger. Do not send in your stock certificate(s) until you have received the Letter of Transmittal.**

#### **Termination of Exchange Act Registration**

Our common stock is currently registered under the Exchange Act. We will be permitted to terminate our registration once we can certify that we have fewer than 300 shareholders of record. Upon the completion of the merger, we expect to have approximately 184 shareholders of record. We intend to apply for termination of the registration of our common stock under the Exchange Act as promptly as possible after the effective time of the merger.

**Table of Contents**

Termination of registration under the Exchange Act will substantially reduce the information required to furnish to our shareholders and to the SEC and would make some of the provisions of the Exchange Act, such as the short-swing profit provisions of Section 16, the requirement of furnishing a proxy or information statement in connection with shareholder meetings under Section 14(a) and required compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, no longer applicable to us. Furthermore, our affiliates will lose the ability to dispose of their common stock under Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933.

We estimate that termination of the registration of our common stock under the Exchange Act will save us approximately \$350,000 per year in legal, accounting, printing, management time and other expenses. See Special Factors-Effects of the Merger on Guaranty.

**Source of Funds and Expenses**

We estimate that approximately \$1.5 million will be required to pay for the shares of our common stock exchanged for cash in the merger. Additionally, we will pay all of the expenses related to the merger. We estimate that these expenses will be as follows:

Legal fees	\$ 75,000
Financial advisory fees	15,000
Printing and mailing costs	20,000
Accounting fees	10,000
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 120,000
	<hr/>

We intend to use existing cash generated from our operations to pay for the shares to be cashed out and the expenses related to the merger. Although it is not anticipated that we will need funds in excess of cash on hand to finance the merger, if additional funds are required it is likely such funds will be borrowed from one of Guaranty's correspondent banks.

**Conditions to the Completion of the Merger**

The obligations of Guaranty and the merger subsidiary to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of all of the following conditions:

approval of the merger agreement by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock;

all of the representations and warranties made in the merger agreement must be true and correct in all material respects as of the effective time of the merger;

absence of pending or threatened litigation regarding the merger; and

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

the aggregate number of the shares to be cashed out in the merger, plus the number of shares held by shareholders who delivered their notice to exercise their rights to dissent from the merger pursuant to the provisions of the TBCA, does not exceed 100,000 shares.

The merger is not contingent on shareholder approval of the amendment. Therefore, if shareholders approve the merger agreement, Guaranty and the merger subsidiary will proceed with the completion of the merger, regardless of whether the shareholders approve the amendment.

### **Termination of Merger Agreement**

The merger agreement may be terminated by either Guaranty or the merger subsidiary at any time prior to the effective time of the merger.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT.**

## **Table of Contents**

### **Dissenters' Rights of Appraisal**

The following section of this proxy statement describes material aspects of the law pertaining to dissenters' rights under Texas law. If you are a shareholder of Guaranty and you wish to dissent from the merger and receive the fair value in cash of your shares of Guaranty common stock instead of receiving the merger consideration, you should carefully read the following discussion, review the full text of the applicable law relating to dissenters' rights which is attached to this proxy statement as *Appendix D*, and consult with your legal counsel before electing or attempting to exercise these rights.

If you hold one or more shares of Guaranty common stock, you are entitled to dissenters' rights under Texas law. This means that if you properly dissent from the merger of merger subsidiary with and into Guaranty pursuant to the merger agreement, you will receive an amount in cash representing the fair value of the shares of Guaranty common stock that you hold. This value may be more or less than the value of the merger consideration that you would otherwise receive pursuant to the merger agreement. The availability of your right to dissent from the merger and obtain the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock is conditioned upon compliance with a complicated procedure that is set forth in Articles 5.11, 5.12 and 5.13 of the TBCA, which are referred to in the following discussion as the dissent provisions. The following discussion is only a summary of the dissent provisions. A copy of the full text of Articles 5.11, 5.12 and 5.13 is attached at *Appendix D* to this proxy statement. You will lose your dissenters' rights in the merger if you do not properly comply with the procedures set forth in the dissent provisions.

### ***How to Exercise and Perfect Your Right to Dissent***

To be eligible to exercise your right to dissent from the merger:

you must, prior to the special meeting, provide Guaranty with a written objection to the merger that states that you intend to exercise your right to dissent if the merger agreement is approved and the merger is completed and that provides an address to which Guaranty may send a notice if the merger is completed; and

you must not vote your shares of Guaranty common stock in favor of the merger agreement.

If you intend to dissent from the merger, you should send the notice to:

Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.

100 W. Arkansas

Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

Attention: Clifton A. Payne

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

If you vote your shares of Guaranty common stock at the special meeting to approve the merger agreement, you will lose your right to dissent from the merger. Instead, you will receive the cash-out price of \$24.00 per share if you own fewer than 600 shares of Guaranty common stock or you will retain your shares if you own 600 or more shares of Guaranty common stock. If you comply with the two items above and the merger is completed, Guaranty will send you a written notice advising you that the merger has been completed. Guaranty must deliver this notice to you within ten days after the merger is completed.

If you wish to receive the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock in cash, you must, within ten days of the date the notice was delivered or mailed to you by Guaranty, send a written demand to Guaranty for payment of the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock. The fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock will be the value of the shares on the day immediately preceding the Guaranty special meeting, excluding any appreciation or depreciation in anticipation of the merger. Your written demand and any notice should be sent to Guaranty at the address set forth above.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Your Demand for Payment***

Your written demand must state how many shares of Guaranty common stock you own and your estimate of the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock. If you fail to send this written demand to Guaranty within ten days of Guaranty's delivery of your notice, you will be bound by the merger and you will not be entitled to receive a cash payment representing the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock. Instead, you will receive the merger consideration as described in the merger agreement if you own fewer than 600 shares of Guaranty common stock or you will retain your shares if you own 600 or more shares of Guaranty common stock. You must also, within 20 days of making a demand for payment, submit the stock certificates representing your shares of Guaranty common stock to Guaranty. Guaranty will make a notation on your stock certificates indicating that a demand for payment has been made and may return the share certificates to you. If you fail to submit your stock certificates to Guaranty for notation, Guaranty may, at its option, terminate your right to receive a cash payment for your shares, unless a court otherwise directs Guaranty.

### ***Guaranty's Actions Upon Receipt of Your Demand for Payment***

Within 20 days after Guaranty receives your demand for payment and your estimate of the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock, Guaranty must send you written notice stating whether or not it accepts your estimate of the fair value of your shares.

If Guaranty accepts your estimate, Guaranty will notify you that it will pay the amount of your estimated fair value within 90 days of the merger being completed. Guaranty will make this payment to you only if you have surrendered the share certificates representing your shares of Guaranty common stock, duly endorsed for transfer, to Guaranty.

If Guaranty does not accept your estimate, Guaranty will notify you of this fact and will make an offer of an alternative estimate of the fair value of your shares that it is willing to pay you within 90 days of the merger being completed, which you may accept within 60 days or decline.

### ***Payment of the Fair Value of Your Shares of Guaranty Common Stock Upon Agreement of an Estimate***

If you and Guaranty have reached an agreement on the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock within 60 days after the merger is completed, Guaranty must pay you the agreed amount. The payment must be made by Guaranty within 90 days after the merger is completed, provided that you have surrendered the share certificates representing your shares of Guaranty common stock, duly endorsed for transfer, to Guaranty.

### ***Commencement of Legal Proceedings if a Demand for Payment Remains Unsettled***

If you and Guaranty have not reached an agreement as to the fair market value of your shares of Guaranty common stock within 60 days after the merger is completed, you or Guaranty may, with 60 days after the expiration of the 60-day period, commence proceedings in Titus County, Texas, asking the court to determine the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock. The court will determine if you have complied with the dissent provisions and if you have become entitled to a valuation of and payment for your shares of Guaranty common stock. The court



will appoint one or more qualified persons to act as appraisers to determine the fair value of your shares. The appraisers will determine the fair value of your shares and will report this value to the court. The court will consider the report, and both you and Guaranty may address the court about the report. The court will determine the fair value of your shares and direct Guaranty to pay that amount, plus interest, which will begin to accrue 91 days after the merger is completed.

*Rights as a Shareholder*

If you have made a written demand on Guaranty for payment of the fair value of your shares of Guaranty common stock, you will not thereafter be entitled to vote or exercise any other rights as a shareholder except the right to receive payment for your shares as described herein and the right to maintain an appropriate action to

**Table of Contents**

obtain relief on the ground that the merger would be or was fraudulent. In the absence of fraud in the transaction, your right under the dissent provisions described herein is the exclusive remedy for the recovery of the value of your shares or money damages with respect to the merger.

***Withdrawal of Demand***

If you have made a written demand on Guaranty for payment of the fair value of your Guaranty common stock, you may withdraw such demand at any time before payment for your shares has been made or before a petition has been filed with a court for determination of the fair value of your shares. If you withdraw your demand or are otherwise unsuccessful in asserting your dissenters' rights, you will be bound by the merger and your status as a shareholder will be restored without prejudice to any corporate proceedings, dividends or distributions which may have occurred during the interim.

***Income Tax Consequences***

See Special Factors Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences on page 29 for a discussion on the federal income tax consequences if you elect to dissent from the merger.

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL II: APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

Our Board of Directors has unanimously approved, and recommends that shareholders vote for the proposal to approve the amendment to our Articles of Incorporation. The following discussion summarizes the change to our existing Articles of Incorporation that would be affected by the approval of the amendment. This summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the text of proposed new Article XVI, which is included as *Appendix B* to this proxy statement.

Under the provisions of the Exchange Act, if, after the merger, the number of our shareholders of record did increase to 300 or greater and remained at that level as of December 31 of any calendar year, then we would be required to resume our reporting obligations under the Exchange Act. Accordingly, the Board approved the amendment to help us control any potential future increases in the number of our record shareholders by granting us a right of first refusal with respect to certain future transfers of our common stock and enable us to delay or avoid Guaranty again becoming subject to the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act. If the amendment is approved, Guaranty will have right, but not the obligation, to purchase the shares of common stock a shareholder would like to transfer, whether by sale, gift or otherwise as described below, if that transfer would result in an increase in the number of our record shareholders.

As a result of the amendment, a Guaranty shareholder that wants to transfer any common stock must give us a period of thirty (30) days in which to purchase the shares. The purchase price we will pay for the shares shall be no less than the per share price established by periodic independent third party appraisals of our common stock that we intend to obtain following the merger for purposes of our Employee Stock Ownership Plan. If we do not exercise our purchase right, the shareholder may proceed with the transfer of the shares.

For purposes of the amendment, a transfer is defined as any type of disposition of shares that would result in an increase in the number of record holders of our shares of common stock, including a sale, gift, transfer incident to divorce, transfer to legatees, heirs or trustees of a trust as the result of the death of the record holder, transfer incident to a guardian or probate proceeding or transfer resulting from the liquidation or sale of a partnership, corporation or other business entity. Consequently, the proposed amendment would not limit transfers to or among street name accounts, as shares held for beneficial owners by banks or brokers are typically held of record by a depository nominee which is the record holder. These types of transfers generally do not result in an increase in the number of record holders of the shares. In accordance with Texas law, the restriction imposed by the amendment would not be binding with respect to shares issued before shareholder approval of the amendment unless the shareholder voted for approval of the amendment.

The amendment, if approved by shareholders, combined with the absence of an established trading market and a smaller shareholder base following completion of the merger, may restrict your ability to transfer your shares of common stock after the merger.

The proposal to approve the amendment is contingent on shareholder approval of the merger agreement and the completion of the merger. As a result, the amendment will not become effective unless the merger agreement is approved and the merger is consummated, even if shareholders approve the amendment. However, the merger is not contingent on shareholder approval of the amendment.

If the amendment is approved and becomes effective, if you are the holder of 600 or more shares of our common stock and you voted in favor of the amendment, we will ask that you surrender your stock certificate(s) representing your shares to receive a new stock certificate(s) which will include information regarding the transfer restriction. After completion of the merger, we will send you a Letter of Transmittal with instructions for exchanging your stock certificate(s).

Our Board of Directors believes that the amendment is in the best interest of Guaranty and our shareholders because it would slow the growth in the number of shareholders in the future, and thus enable Guaranty to avoid or delay the need to again become subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.**

**Table of Contents****INFORMATION ABOUT GUARANTY AND ITS AFFILIATES****Directors and Executive Officers of Guaranty**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to our directors and executive officers as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005. The Board of Directors is divided into three classes with each class to be nearly equal in number as possible. Each class of directors serves for a period of three years and the classes have staggered terms so that the terms of approximately one-third of the directors end at each annual meeting of shareholders or until their successors are elected and qualified. Executive officers serve at the pleasure of our Board of Directors. None of the directors currently serves as a director of any other company with a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act. The business address and phone number of each of the directors and executive officers listed below is c/o Guaranty Bancshares, Inc., 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455.

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Positions with Guaranty and the Bank</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>
Tyson T. Abston	Class III Director and President of Guaranty; Director and President of the Bank	39
Martin Bell	Executive Vice President and Director of the Bank	43
Johnny O. Conroy	Class II Director of Guaranty; Director of the Bank	59
Jonice Crane	Class I Director of Guaranty; Director of the Bank;	79
C. A. Hinton, Sr.	Class II Director of Guaranty; Director of the Bank	82
Carl Johnson, Jr.	Class I Director of Guaranty; Director of the Bank	49
Kirk Lee	Class I Director and Sr. Vice President of Guaranty; Director and Executive Vice President of the Bank	43
Weldon Miller	Class III Director of Guaranty; Director of the Bank	70
Clifton A. Payne	Class I Director, Sr. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Guaranty; Director, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Bank	47
Bill Priefert	Class III Director of Guaranty; Director of the Bank	57
Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.	Class II Director, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Guaranty; Director, Chairman Of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank	66
Gene Watson	Class II Director of Guaranty; Director of the Bank	69

*Tyson T. Abston.* Mr. Abston joined the Bank as Senior Vice President in 1997 after serving five years as Executive Vice President of a Northeast Texas bank. He became President of the Texarkana location in 1997 and then in 1999 transferred to Mt. Pleasant and was elected as Executive Vice President of the Bank. Mr. Abston has served as a director of the Bank since 1999 and a director of Guaranty since 2002. In 2002, Mr. Abston was elected President of the Bank and Senior Vice President of Guaranty. In 2004, Mr. Abston was elected President of the Company.

*Martin Bell.* Mr. Bell joined the Bank in 2000 and served as the President of the Sulphur Springs location. In January 2005, he was elected Executive Vice President of the Bank and is administratively in charge of the mortgage division and location presidents. Mr. Bell was also appointed to the Bank's Board of Directors in January 2005.

Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

*Johnny O. Conroy.* Mr. Conroy was appointed a director of the Company in May 2004 and has served as a director of the Bank since 2003. Mr. Conroy has been the Vice President of Conroy Tractor, Inc. for more than the past five years. Mr. Conroy serves on the Compensation and Nominating Committees.

**Table of Contents**

*Jonice Crane.* Ms. Crane joined the Bank in 1943 and had 53 years of continuous service until her retirement as an officer of the Bank in 1996. She served as an Executive Vice President of the Bank from 1971 to 1996 and has served as a director of the Bank since 1971 and a director of Guaranty since its inception in 1980. Ms. Crane serves on the Compensation and Nominating Committees.

*C.A. Hinton, Sr.* Mr. Hinton has served as a director of the Bank since 1960 and as a director of Guaranty since its inception in 1980. Mr. Hinton has been the Chairman of Hinton Production Company in Mt. Pleasant, Texas for more than the past five years. Mr. Hinton serves on the Compensation and Nominating Committees.

*Carl Johnson, Jr.* Mr. Johnson was appointed a director of Guaranty in 2003 and has served as a director of the Bank since 1991. Mr. Johnson is a Certified Public Accountant and has been a partner of Baker & Johnson, PC for more than the past five years. Mr. Johnson serves on the Audit Committee.

*Kirk Lee.* Mr. Lee joined the Bank in 1992 and served as the President of the Paris location until 2002. In January 2002, he was elected Executive Vice President of the Bank and is now in charge of credit administration. Mr. Lee was also appointed to the Bank's Board of Directors in 2002. In January 2005, Mr. Lee was appointed by the board of directors, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, to serve as a Class I director of Guaranty.

*Weldon Miller.* Mr. Miller has served as a director of Guaranty in 1980 and has served as a director of the Bank since 1969. Mr. Miller has been the President of Everybody's Furniture Company in Mount Pleasant, Texas for more than the past five years. Mr. Miller serves on the Audit, Compensation and Nominating Committees.

*Clifton A. Payne.* Mr. Payne joined the Bank in 1984 after four years in private practice with a certified public accounting firm. He became a Vice President of the Bank in 1986 and was elected an Executive Vice President in 1996 and Chief Financial Officer in 1998. In 1995, Mr. Payne was elected to the Board of Directors of Guaranty and the Bank. Mr. Payne is also Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

*Bill Priefert.* Mr. Priefert has served as a director of the Bank since 1983 and a director of Guaranty since 2002. Mr. Priefert has been President of Priefert Manufacturing, Inc. in Mt. Pleasant, Texas for more than the past five years.

*Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.* Mr. Scharlach is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Guaranty and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank. He joined the Bank in 1970 as a Vice President and Loan Officer and was elected to the Bank's Board of Directors in 1971. He was elected a Senior Vice President of the Bank in 1974, President in 1979, Chief Operating Officer in 1983 and Chief Executive Officer in 1989. In 2002 he was elected to Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank. He has served as a director of Guaranty since its inception and as President since 1992 and in 2002 was elected Chief Executive Officer. In 2004, he was elected Chairman of the Board of Guaranty.

*Gene Watson.* Mr. Watson has served as a director of the Bank since 1999 and a director of Guaranty since 2002. He had been the Chairman and a director of First American Financial Corporation since 1981, which was acquired by Guaranty in September 1999. Mr. Watson retired from Watson Company Realtors in Sulphur Springs, Texas in 1999. Mr. Watson serves on the Audit, Compensation and Nominating Committees.





**Table of Contents****Market for Common Stock and Dividends**

The Guaranty common stock began trading on May 21, 1998 and is listed on the National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market under the symbol GNTY . Prior to that date, Guaranty common stock was privately held and not listed on any public exchange or actively traded. Guaranty had a total of 2,826,012 shares outstanding at May 25, 2005. As of May 25, 2005, there were 430 registered shareholders of record.

The following table presents the high and low sales prices of our common stock reported by Nasdaq by quarter during the periods indicated:

Quarter	High	Low
<i>2005</i>		
Third quarter (through _____, 2005)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Second quarter	23.38	17.50
First quarter	22.78	20.59
<i>2004</i>		
Fourth quarter	22.83	20.44
Third quarter	24.00	17.05
Second quarter	20.65	19.00
First quarter	22.10	20.00
<i>2003</i>		
Fourth quarter	22.00	17.78
Third quarter	18.15	16.40
Second quarter	16.59	14.90
First quarter	16.40	15.64

Holders of Guaranty common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors out of funds legally available therefore. While we have declared dividends on our common stock since 1980, and paid semi-annual dividends aggregating \$0.40 per share per annum in 2004, there is no assurance that we will continue to pay dividends in the future.

The principal source of cash revenues to Guaranty is dividends paid by the Bank with respect to the Bank's capital stock. There are certain restrictions on the payment of such dividends imposed by federal and state banking laws, regulations and authorities.

The cash dividends we paid per share by quarter for the periods indicated were as follows:

	2005	2004	2003
Fourth quarter	\$ N/A	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20
Third quarter	N/A		
Second quarter	0.21	0.20	0.17
First quarter			



**Table of Contents****Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of Guaranty common stock as of May 25, 2005, by all (1) directors, (2) named executive officers, (3) each person who is known by Guaranty to own beneficially 5% or more of our common stock and (4) all directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, based on information furnished by such shareholders, management of Guaranty believes that each person has sole voting and dispositive power over the shares indicated as owned by such person.

Information relating to beneficial ownership of the common stock set forth below is based upon beneficial ownership concepts set forth in rules of the SEC under Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act. Under these rules a person is deemed to be a beneficial owner of a security if that person has or shares voting power, which includes the power to vote or direct the voting of such security, or investment power, which includes the power to dispose or to direct the disposition of such security. A person is also deemed to be a beneficial owner of any security of which that person has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days. Under the rules, more than one person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of the same securities, and a person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of securities as to which he has no beneficial interest. For instance, beneficial ownership includes spouses, minor children and other relatives residing in the same household, and trusts, partnerships or corporations which are affiliated with the shareholder.

Name	Number of Shares	Percentage Beneficially Owned	
		Before (1)	After (2)
<b>Principal Shareholders:</b>			
Guaranty Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (with 401(k) provisions)	512,690 <sup>(3)</sup>	18.14%	18.55%
Estate of Bill G. Jones	251,447 <sup>(4)</sup>	8.90	9.10
<b>Directors and Executive Officers:</b>			
Tyson T. Abston	28,704 <sup>(5)</sup>	1.01	1.03
Martin Bell	10,581 <sup>(6)</sup>	*	*
Johnny O. Conroy	63,675	2.25	2.30
Jonice Crane	97,692 <sup>(7)</sup>	3.46	3.53
C. A. Hinton, Sr	179,676 <sup>(8)</sup>	6.36	6.50
Carl Johnson, Jr.	11,666	*	*
Kirk Lee.	38,035 <sup>(9)</sup>	1.34	1.37
Weldon Miller	225,172 <sup>(10)</sup>	7.97	8.15
Clifton A. Payne	47,915 <sup>(11)</sup>	1.69	1.73
Bill Priefert	54,388 <sup>(12)</sup>	1.92	1.97
Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.	156,430 <sup>(13)</sup>	5.50	5.62
Gene Watson.	49,280	1.74	1.78
Directors and executive officers as a group (12 persons)	963,214	33.39%	34.12%

\* Indicates ownership which does not exceed 1.0%.

- (1) The percentage beneficially owned was calculated based on 2,826,012 shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of May 25, 2005. The percentage assumes the exercise by the shareholder or group named in each row of all options for the purchase of common stock held by such shareholder or group and exercisable within 60 days.
- (2) The percentage beneficially owned was calculated based on 2,764,263 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and assumes that 61,749 shares will be cashed out in the merger. The percentage assumes the exercise by the shareholder or group named in each row of all options for the purchase of common stock held by such shareholder or group and exercisable within 60 days.

**Table of Contents**

- (3) A total of 157,927 shares held by Guaranty's 401(k) Plan for the benefit of the directors and executive officers are also included in the number of shares reported in this table to be owned by each director or executive officer in his individual capacity.
- (4) Includes 22,827 shares held of record by the Bill G. Jones IRA Rollover, 161 shares held of record by Mr. Jones' wife's IRA and 16,253 shares held of record by Guaranty's 401(k) Plan, over which the Estate of Mr. Jones has investment control.
- (5) Includes 6,000 shares held of record by the Tyson Abston IRA, 10,704 shares held of record by the Company's 401(k) Plan, over which Mr. Abston has investment control and 12,000 shares which may be acquired pursuant to the exercise of fully vested stock options.
- (6) Includes 3,881 shares held of record by Guaranty's 401(k) Plan, over which Mr. Bell has investment control, and 6,600 shares which may be acquired pursuant to the exercise of fully vested stock options.
- (7) Includes 3,500 shares held of record by the Jonice Crane IRA and 1,715 shares held of record by Ms. Crane's husband.
- (8) Includes 2,884 shares held of record by the Charles A. Hinton IRA.
- (9) Includes 1,880 shares held of record by the Kirk Lee IRA, 24,263 shares held of record by Guaranty's 401(k) Plan, over which Mr. Lee has investment control, and 9,100 shares which may be acquired pursuant to the exercise of fully vested stock options.
- (10) Includes 8,463 shares held of record by Everybody's Furniture Company, of which Mr. Miller is the President, 38,957 shares held of record by the Everybody's Furniture Company Profit Sharing Plan & Trust of which Mr. Miller is the trustee, 865 shares held of record by the Weldon Miller IRA and 865 shares held of record by Mr. Miller's wife's IRA.
- (11) Includes 30,928 shares held of record by Guaranty's 401(k) Plan, over which Mr. Payne has investment control, and 11,200 shares which may be acquired pursuant to the exercise of fully vested stock options.
- (12) Includes 44,441 shares held of record by the Priefert Retirement Trust, of which Mr. Priefert is the trustee.
- (13) Includes 10,338 shares held of record by the Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr. IRA, 34,041 shares held of record by Mr. Scharlach's wife, 71,898 shares held of record by Guaranty's 401(k) Plan, over which Mr. Scharlach has investment control, and 20,000 shares which may be acquired pursuant to the exercise of fully vested stock options.

**Guaranty Common Stock Purchase and Sale Information**

*Purchases by Guaranty of Guaranty Common Stock During the Past Two Years.* During the last two years, we purchased shares of our common stock as set forth in the table below in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. We did not purchase any shares in the first or second quarters of 2004 or the third or fourth quarters of 2003.

Period	Number of Shares	Price Range Paid		Average Price Paid
		Per Share		Per Share
Second quarter 2005	102,177(1)	\$ 20.00	22.40	\$ 21.50
First quarter 2005	952	\$	21.70	21.70
Fourth quarter 2004				
Third quarter 2004	11,451	19.50	19.75	19.61

- (1) Includes the purchase of 100,000 shares of our common stock at \$21.50 per share (the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market on the day immediately prior to the repurchase) from the Estate of Bill G. Jones, a former director and Chairman of the Board of Guaranty. The shares were repurchased, in part, with proceeds from key man life insurance established for this purpose.

**Table of Contents**

*Purchases and Sales of Guaranty Common Stock by the Executive Officers, Directors and Control Persons.* The following table shows all transactions in Guaranty common stock for which consideration was paid involving Guaranty and its executive officers, directors and affiliates during the past two years or since becoming an affiliate, whichever is later. Unless otherwise indicated, each transaction listed was made on the open market.

Name	Date	Number of Shares	Price	
			Per Share	Purchase/Sale
Tyson T. Abston	1/11/05	1,035	\$ 21.80	Sale
Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.	8/18/04	3,500	19.75	Sale
Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.	7/08/04	5,000	19.75	Sale
Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.	6/21/04	1,500	20.10	Sale
Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.	6/08/04	10,000	20.65	Sale
D. R. Zachry	12/26/03	8,000	20.50	Sale
Tyson T. Abston	10/28/03	150	19.70	Purchase

**OTHER MATTERS**

As of the date of this proxy statement, the Board of Directors and management of Guaranty know of no other business to be presented for consideration at the special meeting. However, if other matters do properly come before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, unless otherwise instructed, it is intended that the persons named in the proxy card will act in accordance with their best judgment.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may read and copy, at the prescribed rates, this information at the SEC's Public Reference Room, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. The SEC also maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers, including Guaranty, who file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Guaranty, the merger subsidiary and the Filing Persons have filed with the SEC a Rule 13e-3 Transaction Statement on Schedule 13E-3 in respect of the merger. As permitted by the SEC, this proxy statement omits certain information contained in the Schedule 13E-3. The Schedule 13E-3, including any amendments and exhibits filed or incorporated by reference as a part thereof, is available for inspection or copying as set forth above or is available electronically at the SEC's website.

The SEC allows Guaranty to incorporate by reference information into this document. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information that we incorporate by reference is considered to be a part of this document.

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

This document incorporates by reference the documents listed below that have previously been filed with the SEC, which contain important information about Guaranty:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004; and

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2005;

We also incorporate by reference any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this proxy statement and before the special meeting. Any statement contained in this proxy statement or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this proxy statement shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained herein or

**Table of Contents**

in any subsequently filed document that also is, or is deemed to be, incorporated by reference herein modified or superseded such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this proxy statement.

We will provide, without charge, to each person to whom this proxy statement is delivered, upon written or oral request of such person and by first class mail or other equally prompt means within one business day of receipt of such request, a copy of any and all information that has been incorporated by reference, without exhibits unless such exhibits are also incorporated by reference in this proxy statement. You may obtain a copy of these documents and any amendments thereto by writing to Kim Shumate at the following address: Guaranty Bancshares, Inc., 100 W. Arkansas, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455, telephone number (903) 572-9881.

**Table of Contents**

*Appendix A*

**AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER**

THIS AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER (this Agreement), made and effective as of June 13, 2005, is entered into by and between **GUARANTY BANCSHARES, INC.** (the Company), a Texas corporation and **GB FACILITATION, INC.** (Newco), a Texas corporation.

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, the Company is a business corporation duly incorporated and validly existing under the laws of the State of Texas, with authorized capital stock consisting of (i) 50,000,000 shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value per share (Common Stock), of which 3,252,016 shares are issued and 2,826,012 shares are outstanding as of the date hereof and (ii) 15,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$5.00 par value per share, none of which are issued and outstanding as of the date hereof; and

WHEREAS, Newco is a corporation duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the State of Texas, with authorized capital stock consisting of 1,000 shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value per share (Newco Stock), of which 1,000 shares are issued and outstanding; and

WHEREAS, the Company and Newco believe that the merger of Newco with and into the Company in the manner provided by, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in, this Agreement is desirable and in the best interests of their respective shareholders; and

WHEREAS, the respective Boards of Directors of the Company and Newco have approved this Agreement and the transactions proposed herein substantially on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual representations, warranties, covenants and agreements set forth herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as set forth below:

**I. THE MERGER**

Section 1.1 *Merger*. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, Newco shall be merged with and into the Company (the Merger), with the Company as the surviving corporation (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the Surviving Corporation when reference is made to it after the Effective Time (as defined in *Article VIII* hereof) of the Merger), pursuant to the provisions of, and with the effect provided in Article 5 of the Texas Business Corporation Act (TBCA). The name of the surviving corporation shall be Guaranty Bancshares, Inc., and the business of the Surviving Corporation shall be that of a bank holding company.



Section 1.2 *Effect of Merger.* At the Effective Time of the Merger, the corporate existence of the Company and Newco shall, as provided in the provisions of law heretofore mentioned, be merged and continued in Surviving Corporation, and Surviving Corporation shall be deemed to be a continuation in entity and identity of the Company and Newco. All rights, franchises and interests of the Company and Newco, respectively, in and to any type of property and choices in action shall be transferred to and vested in Surviving Corporation by virtue of such Merger without any deed or other transfer. Surviving Corporation, without any order or other action on the part of any court or otherwise, shall hold and enjoy all rights of property, franchises and interest, including appointments, designations and nominations, and all other rights and interests as trustee, executor, administrator, transfer agent or registrar of stocks and bonds, guardian of estates, assignee, receiver and committee of estates and lunatics, and in every other fiduciary capacity, in the same manner and to the same extent as such rights,

A-1

## Table of Contents

franchises, and interests were held or enjoyed by the Company and Newco, respectively, as of the Effective Time. The Merger shall have all other effects set forth in Article 5.06 of the TBCA.

**Section 1.3 *Liabilities of Surviving Corporation.*** At the Effective Time, Surviving Corporation shall be liable for all liabilities of the Company and Newco. All deposits, debts, liabilities, obligations and contracts of the Company and of Newco, respectively, matured or unmatured, whether accrued, absolute, contingent or otherwise, and whether or not reflected or reserved against on balance sheets, books of account, or records of the Company or Newco, as the case may be, shall be those of Surviving Corporation and shall not be released or impaired by the Merger. All rights of creditors and other obligees and all liens on property of either the Company or Newco shall be preserved unimpaired subsequent to the Merger.

**Section 1.4 *Conveyance.*** All assets of Newco and the Company as they exist at the Effective Time of the Merger shall pass to, and vest in, the Surviving Corporation without any conveyance or other transfer. The Surviving Corporation shall be responsible for all the liabilities of every kind and description of each of the Company and Newco existing as of the Effective Time of the Merger.

**Section 1.5 *Board of Directors and Officers; Articles of Incorporation; Bylaws.*** At the Effective Time and until thereafter changed in accordance with applicable law or the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Surviving Corporation, the members of the Board of Directors and officers of the Company shall become the Board of Directors and officers of the Surviving Corporation. At the Effective Time and until thereafter amended in accordance with applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Surviving Corporation shall be the Articles of Incorporation of the Company as in effect as of the Effective Time. Until altered, amended or repealed as provided therein and in the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws of the Surviving Corporation shall be the Bylaws of the Company as in effect as of the Effective Time.

## **II. MERGER CONSIDERATION AND EXCHANGE PROCEDURES**

**Section 2.1 *Merger Consideration.*** At the Effective Time, by virtue of the Merger and without any action on the part of the holders thereof,

(a) all outstanding shares of Common Stock, whether Record Shares (as hereinafter defined) or Street Shares (as hereinafter defined), held by a Holder (as hereinafter defined) holding fewer than 600 shares of Common Stock immediately prior to the Effective Time (such shareholders are referred to herein as Cash-Out Shareholders ) shall, without any action on the part of the holder thereof, be canceled and converted into the right to receive, upon the surrender of the certificate representing such shares, cash equal to \$24.00 per share of Common Stock without interest thereon, (the Merger Consideration ) other than Dissenting Shares (as defined in *Section 2.2* hereof); *provided, however*, that the Company may presume that all Street Shares (as hereinafter defined) are held by Holders holding fewer than 600 shares of Common Stock immediately prior to the Effective Time unless the Company or a beneficial owner of Street Shares is able to demonstrate to the Company's satisfaction that such shares are held beneficially by a Holder holding 600 or more shares of Common Stock immediately prior to the Effective Time, in which event such shares of Common Stock shall remain outstanding with all rights, privileges, and powers existing immediately before the Effective Time;

(b) all outstanding shares of Common Stock other than those described in paragraph (a) above as being converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration shall remain outstanding with all rights, privileges, and powers existing immediately prior to the Effective Time; and

(c) the outstanding shares of Newco Stock shall, without any action on the part of the holder thereof, be canceled.

Except as provided in *Section 2.2*, in no event shall any Holder holding, of record or beneficially, immediately prior to the Effective Time 600 or more shares of Common Stock (including any combination of

A-2

## **Table of Contents**

Record Shares and Street Shares) in the aggregate be entitled to receive any Merger Consideration with respect to the shares of Common Stock so held. It shall be a condition precedent to the right of any Holder to receive the Merger Consideration, if any, payable with respect to the shares of Common Stock held by such Holder that such Holder certify to the Company in the letter of transmittal delivered by the Company as described in *Section 2.2* that such Holder held, of record and beneficially, immediately prior to the Effective Time fewer than 600 shares of Common Stock (including any combination of Record Shares and Street Shares) in the aggregate.

For purposes hereof,

(1) the term **Record Shares** shall mean shares of Common Stock other than Street Shares and any Record Share shall be deemed to be held by the registered Holder thereof as reflected on the books of the Company;

(2) the term **Street Shares** shall mean shares of Common Stock held of record in street name, and any Street Share shall be deemed to be held by the beneficial owner thereof as reflected on the books of the nominee holder thereof;

(3) the term **Holder** shall mean (i) any record holder or holders of Record Shares who would be deemed, under Rule 12g5-1 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, to be a single person for purposes of determining the number of record shareholders of the Company, and (ii) any other person or persons who would be deemed to be a Holder under clause (i) above if the shares of Common Stock such person holds beneficially in street name were held of record by such person or persons; and

(4) the term **Cash-Out Shares** shall mean any shares of Common Stock that are converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration pursuant to this *Section 2.1*.

The Company (along with any other person or entity to which it may delegate or assign any responsibility or task with respect thereto) shall have full discretion and exclusive authority (subject to its right and power to so delegate or assign such authority) to (i) make such inquiries, whether of any shareholder(s) or otherwise, as it may deem appropriate for purposes of this *Section 2.1* and (ii) resolve and determine, in its sole discretion, all ambiguities, questions of fact and interpretive and other matters relating to this *Section 2.1*, including, without limitation, any questions as to the number of shares of Common Stock held by any Holder immediately prior to the Effective Time. All determinations by the Company under this *Section 2.1* shall be final and binding on all parties, and no person or entity shall have any recourse against the Company or any other person or entity with respect thereto.

For purposes of this *Section 2.1*, the Company may in its sole discretion, but shall not have any obligation to do so, (i) presume that any shares of Common Stock held in a discrete account (whether record or beneficial) are held by a person distinct from any other person, notwithstanding that the registered or beneficial holder of a separate discrete account has the same or a similar name as the holder of a separate discrete account; and (ii) aggregate the shares of Common Stock held (whether of record or beneficially) by any person or persons that the Company determines to constitute a single Holder for purposes of determining the number of shares of Common Stock held by such Holder.

*Section 2.2 Dissenting Shares.* Each share of Common Stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time, the Holder of which has not voted in favor of the Merger and who has delivered a written demand for payment of the fair value of such shares within the time and in the manner provided in Article 5.12 of the TBCA, is referred to herein as a **Dissenting Share**. Dissenting Shares owned by each holder thereof who has not Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, Dissenting Shares shall not be converted into or represent the

right to receive the Merger Consideration pursuant to *Section 2.1* hereof unless and until such holder shall have failed to perfect or shall have effectively withdrawn or lost his right to appraisal and

A-3

**Table of Contents**

payment under the TBCA. If any such Holder shall have so failed to perfect or shall have effectively withdrawn or lost such right, such Holder's Dissenting Shares shall thereupon be deemed to have been converted into and to have become exchangeable for, at the Effective Time, the right to receive the Merger Consideration without any interest thereon.

*Section 2.3 Exchange of Shares.*

(a) The Company shall deposit or cause to be deposited in trust on behalf of Computershare Trust Company (the Exchange Agent) cash in an aggregate amount necessary to pay the Merger Consideration to Cash-Out Shareholders and to make appropriate cash payments to Holders of Dissenting Shares pursuant to *Section 2.2* hereof, if any, (such amounts being hereinafter referred to as the Exchange Fund). The Exchange Fund shall not be used for any other purpose, except as provided in this Agreement.

(b) As soon as practicable after the Effective Time, the Company shall use its best efforts to cause the Exchange Agent to mail to each record holder of an outstanding certificate which represents Cash-Out Shares (the Certificates), a form letter of transmittal which will specify that delivery shall be effected, and risk of loss and title to the Certificates shall pass, only upon proper delivery of the Certificates to the Exchange Agent and contain instructions for use in effecting the surrender of the Certificates for payment therefor. At and after the Closing (as defined in *Section 7.1*) and upon surrender to the Exchange Agent of a Certificate, together with such letter of transmittal duly executed, the holder of such Certificate shall be entitled to receive in exchange therefor the amount of cash provided in *Section 2.1* hereof and such Certificate shall forthwith be canceled. Payment with respect to Cash-Out Shares will be made as soon as practicable after the Exchange Agent's receipt of the Certificates and a properly completed letter of transmittal. No interest will be paid or accrued on the Merger Consideration payable upon surrender of the Certificates. Until surrendered in accordance with the provisions of this *Section 2.3*, each Certificate (other than Certificates representing Dissenting Shares) shall represent for all purposes the right to receive the Merger Consideration without any interest thereon.

(c) If payment of cash is to be made to a person other than the person in whose name the Certificate surrendered is registered, it shall be a condition of payment that the Certificate so surrendered shall be properly endorsed or otherwise in proper form for transfer and that the person requesting such payment shall pay any transfer or other taxes required by reason of the payment to a person other than the registered holder of the Certificate surrendered or established to the satisfaction of the Company that such tax has been paid or is not applicable.

(d) Any portion of the Exchange Fund (including the proceeds of any investments thereof) that remains unclaimed by the shareholders of the Company for six months after the Exchange Agent mails the letter of transmittal pursuant to *Section 2.2* hereof shall be returned to the Company upon demand, and the holders of shares of Common Stock who have not theretofore complied with the exchange procedures in this *Section 2.3* shall look to the Company only, and not the Exchange Agent, for the payment of any of the Merger Consideration in respect of such shares.

(e) None of the Company, Newco, the Exchange Agent or any other person shall be liable to any former holder of shares of Common Stock for any cash properly delivered to a public official pursuant to applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar laws.

(f) In the event any Certificate shall have been lost, stolen or destroyed, upon the making of an affidavit of that fact by the person claiming such Certificate to be lost, stolen or destroyed and, if required by the Company or the Exchange Agent, the posting by such person of a bond in such amount as the Company or the Exchange Agent may direct as indemnity against any claim that may be made against it with respect to such Certificate, the Exchange Agent will issue in exchange for such lost, stolen or destroyed Certificate the Merger Consideration deliverable in respect thereof pursuant to this Agreement.



**Table of Contents**

**III. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF THE COMPANY**

The Company hereby represents and warrants to Newco as follows:

Section 3.1 *Organization*. The Company is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Texas and is a registered bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. The Company has full corporate power to own its properties, to carry on its business as now being, and presently contemplated to be, conducted.

Section 3.2 *Capitalization*. The authorized capital stock of the Company consists of (i) 50,000,000 shares of Common Stock, of which 3,252,016 shares are issued and 2,826,012 shares are outstanding as of the date of this Agreement and (ii) 15,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$5.00 par value, none of which are issued and outstanding as of the date of this Agreement.

Section 3.3 *Authority; Approvals*. The Company has full corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and has full legal capacity, power and authority to perform its obligations hereunder. The Board of Directors of the Company has approved this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby, subject to the approval by the shareholders of the Company as required by law. This Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by the Company and when executed by Newco, will be a binding agreement of the Company enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms.

Section 3.4 *No Conflict With Other Instruments*. Subject to the receipt of all required regulatory approvals and compliance with all applicable federal and state securities laws, the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby will not violate any provision of, or constitute a default under any order, writ, injunction or decree of any court or other governmental agency, or any material contract, agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound, or constitute an event which with the lapse of time or action by a third party could result in any default under any of the foregoing or result in the creation of any lien, charge or encumbrance upon any of the assets or properties of the Company or upon shares of Common Stock.

**IV. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF NEWCO**

Newco hereby represents and warrants to the Company as follows:

Section 4.1 *Organization*. Newco is a Texas corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of Texas, and has full corporate power and authority to own its properties, to engage in the business and activities now conducted by it.

Section 4.2 *Capitalization*. The authorized capital stock of Newco consists of 1,000 shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, all of which are issued and outstanding. All such shares are validly issued, fully paid, and nonassessable. There are no existing options, warrants, calls or commitments of any kind obligating Newco to issue any of its authorized and unissued capital stock.



## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

Section 4.3 *Subsidiaries or Affiliates*. Newco does not own of record or beneficially, and is not obligated to acquire, any capital stock, other equity securities, debt securities or other interest of or in any corporation, government or other entity. Between the date hereof and the Effective Time, Newco will not create or acquire any subsidiaries without the prior written consent of the Company.

Section 4.4 *Authority; Approvals*. Newco has full corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and has full legal capacity, power and authority to perform its obligations hereunder. The Board of Directors of Newco has approved this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby, subject to the

## **Table of Contents**

approval thereof by the shareholders of the Newco as required by law. This Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by Newco and when executed by the Company, will be a binding agreement of Newco enforceable against it in accordance with its terms.

### **V. CONDITIONS TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMPANY**

The obligation of the Company to effect the Merger shall be subject to the satisfaction on or before the Closing Date all of the following conditions, except as the Company may waive such conditions in writing:

Section 5.1 *Litigation*. On the Closing Date, there shall not be pending or threatened litigation in any court or any 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 Merger, or in which it is sought to obtain divestiture, recession, or damages in connection with the Merger or the consummation of the Merger, and to the knowledge of any of the parties hereto, no investigation by any governmental agency shall be pending or threatened that might result in any such suit, action or other proceedings.

Section 5.2 *Representations and Warranties*. All representations and warranties of Newco contained in this Agreement, other than any representations and warranties as to future events, shall be true and correct in all material respects on and as of the Closing Date as if such representations and warranties were made on and as of the Closing Date, and Newco shall have performed all agreements and covenants required by this Agreement to be performed or complied with by it on or prior to the Closing Date.

Section 5.3 *Shareholder Approval*. The shareholders of each of the Company and Newco shall have voted affirmatively to approve this Agreement by the requisite vote.

Section 5.4 *Dissenting and Cash-Out Shares*. The aggregate number shares held by Cash-Out Shareholders and shares of Common Stock held by shareholders of the Company who have delivered to the Company notice of their intent to exercise their dissenters' rights with respect to the Merger shall not exceed 100,000.

### **VI. CONDITIONS TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF NEWCO**

The obligation of Newco to effect the Merger shall be subject to the satisfaction prior to the Effective Time of the Merger of the following conditions:

Section 6.1 *Litigation*. On the Closing Date, there shall not be pending or threatened litigation in any court or any 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 Merger, or in which it is sought to obtain divestiture, recession, or damages in connection with the Merger or the consummation of the Merger, and to the knowledge of any of the parties hereto, no investigation by any governmental agency shall be pending or threatened that might result in any such suit, action or other proceeding.

Section 6.2 *Representations and Warranties.* All representations and warranties of the Company contained in this Agreement, other than any representations and warranties as to future events, shall be true and correct in all material respects on and as of the Closing Date as if such representations and warranties were made on and as of the Closing Date, and the Company shall have performed all agreements and covenants required by this Agreement to be performed or complied with by it on or prior to the Closing Date.

Section 6.3 *Shareholder Approval.* The shareholders of each of the Company and Newco shall have voted affirmatively to approve this Agreement by the requisite vote.

**Table of Contents**

**VII. EXPENSES**

Costs and expenses relating to the negotiation and drafting of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby shall be borne and paid by the Company.

**VIII. CLOSING DATE AND EFFECTIVE TIME**

The closing of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby shall be held on the Closing Date (as defined in this *Article VIII*) at such time and place as the parties hereto may mutually agree upon. The Closing Date shall be such date as the Presidents of each of the Company and Newco, respectively, may agree upon. Subject to the terms and upon satisfaction on or before the Closing Date of all requirements of law and conditions specified in this Agreement, the Company and Newco shall, at the Closing Date, execute, acknowledge and deliver such other documents and instruments and take such further action as may be necessary or appropriate to consummate the Merger. The Effective Time is the date and time on which the Merger is effective, which shall be the date and time specified in the certificate of merger to be issued by the Secretary of State of Texas, and if no date is specified in such certificate, then the Effective Time shall be the time of the opening of business on the date the certificate of merger is recorded by the Secretary of State of Texas.

**IX. TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT**

*Section 9.1 Termination.* This Agreement may be terminated by either the Company or Newco at any time prior to the Effective Time. In the event of termination of this Agreement, this Agreement shall become void and shall have no effect and create no liability or obligation on the part of the parties hereto or their respective officers, directors or shareholders.

*Section 9.2 Amendment.* This Agreement may be amended only by an instrument in writing duly authorized by the Boards of Directors of the parties hereto and signed on behalf of each of the parties hereto.

**X. NOTICES**

All notices and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed given if delivered personally, by facsimile (with confirmation) or mailed by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested) to the Company or Newco, respectively, at the following addresses:

If to the Company:

Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.

100 W. Arkansas

Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

If to Newco:

GB Facilitation, Inc.

100 W. Arkansas

Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

## **XI. MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 11.1 *Further Assurances*. Each party hereto agrees to perform any further acts and to execute and deliver any further documents that may be reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 11.2 *Interpretation*. When a reference is made in this Agreement to Sections or Articles, such reference shall be to a Section or Article of this Agreement unless otherwise indicated. The headings contained in

A-7

**Table of Contents**

this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. Whenever the words include, includes or including are used in this Agreement, they shall be deemed to be followed by the words without limitation.

Section 11.3 *Counterparts*. This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which shall be deemed to constitute one and the same instrument.

Section 11.4 *Governing Law*. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas applicable to agreements made and entirely to be performed within such jurisdiction.

Section 11.5 *Entire Agreement*. This Agreement (including the documents and the instruments referred to herein) constitutes the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

Section 11.6 *Assignment*. Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests or obligations hereunder shall be assigned by any of the parties hereto (whether by operation of law or otherwise) without the prior written consent of the other party.

Section 11.7 *Severability*. In the event that any of the provisions, or portions thereof, of this Agreement are held to be illegal, unenforceable or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the legality, enforceability and validity of the remaining provisions, or portions thereof, shall not be effected thereby, and in lieu of the illegal, unenforceable or invalid provision or portion thereof, there shall be added a new legal, enforceable and valid provision as similar in scope and effect as is necessary to effectuate the results intended by the deleted provision or portion.

[Signature Page Follows]

**Table of Contents**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the date first above written.

**GUARANTY BANCSHARES, INC.**

By: /s/ TYSON T. ABSTON  
**Tyson T. Abston**  
**President**

Attest:

By: /s/ KIM SHUMATE

**GB FACILITATION, INC.**

By: /s/ ARTHUR B. SCHARLACH, JR.  
**Arthur B. Scharlach, Jr.**  
**President**

Attest:

By: /s/ SONDRA CUNNINGHAM

A-9

**Table of Contents**

*Appendix B*

Proposed New Article XVI of  
Articles of Incorporation of Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.,  
as amended

Article XVI. Restrictions on Transfer of Stock

(a) This Article XVI shall govern all transfers of shares of common stock of the corporation held by shareholders who voted in favor of the amendment of these articles to add this Article XVI at the special meeting of shareholders held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005 and all shares of common stock of the corporation acquired subsequent to the filing of this amendment with the Secretary of State of Texas. For purposes of this Article XVI, transfer means any type of disposition whatsoever, including but not limited to a sale; gift; transfer incident to divorce; transfer to legatees, heirs or trustees of a trust as the result of the death of the record holder of common stock; transfer incident to a guardian or probate proceeding; or transfer resulting from the liquidation or sale of a partnership, corporation or other business entity that, as a consequence of such transfer, would result in the corporation having more owners of record of the shares proposed to be transferred than existed at the time immediately prior to the proposed transfer. A holder of common stock shall be permitted to pledge any shares of common stock owned to secure bona fide indebtedness, but any transfer of such shares incident to the pledge shall constitute a transfer as defined above.

(b) If a holder of common stock subject to the provisions of this Article XVI shall at any time desire to transfer shares of common stock, such shareholder shall first give written notice ( Transfer Notice ) of the proposed transfer to the corporation. The Transfer Notice shall specify the number of shares of common stock proposed to be transferred, the name of the transferee, the price per share to be paid by the purchaser if the transfer is a sale and the other terms and conditions of the proposed transfer. Pursuant to the Transfer Notice, the corporation shall have the right to purchase the shares under the terms set forth in (c) below. The corporation shall have thirty (30) days following receipt of the Transfer Notice within which to exercise, by written notice to the shareholder, its option to acquire its the common stock proposed to be transferred.

(c) The price to be paid by the corporation for the shares shall be no less than the price per share of common stock established by independent third party appraisals of the common stock obtained for purposes of the corporation's Employee Stock Ownership Plan. In the event that the corporation elects not to purchase the shares identified in the Transfer Notice, the shareholder shall be free to transfer the shares as set forth in the Transfer Notice.

(d) Any attempted transfer that is not in compliance with this Article XVI will be of no effect and will not be recorded on the stock transfer books of the corporation. This restriction will be binding to the fullest extent permitted by law and shall be noted conspicuously on stock certificates issued or transferred after the effective date of the amendment adding this Article XVI to the Articles of Incorporation.



**Table of Contents**

*Appendix C*

**HOEFER & ARNETT**

**INCORPORATED**

**INVESTMENT BANKERS**

**207 JEFFERSON SQUARE**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78731**

**(512) 495-9890**

**FAX: (512) 495-9894**

June 7, 2005

Members of the Board of Directors

Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.

P.O. Box 1158

Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455

Members of the Board:

You have requested our opinion as investment bankers that the fair value of \$24.00 per share for the outstanding common stock of Guaranty Bancshares, Inc., Mount Pleasant, Texas ( Guaranty ) for the purpose of effecting a cash-out merger to go private is fair, from a financial point of view, to the shareholders of Guaranty that will be cashed out and to the shareholders of Guaranty that will remain following the merger. In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Agreement ), all outstanding shares of Guaranty common stock shall, whether Record Shares or Street Shares (as defined in the Agreement), held by a Holder (as defined in the Agreement) holding fewer than 600 shares of Guaranty common stock immediately prior to the Effective Time (such shareholders referred to as Cash-Out Shareholders ) shall, without any action on the part of the holder thereof, be canceled and converted into the right to receive cash equal to \$24.00 per share of Guaranty common stock (the Merger Consideration ). All outstanding shares of Guaranty common stock other than those described above as being converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration shall remain outstanding.

The Merger Consideration of \$24.00 per share represents a price to book value at March 31, 2005 of 1.82x, a price to tangible book value at March 31, 2005 of 1.94x and a price to 2004 earnings multiple of 19.35x.

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

In connection with this assignment, we have reviewed and analyzed, among other things, the following: (i) the Agreement; (ii) annual reports on Form 10-K of Guaranty for the years ended December 31, 2004, December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002; (iii) quarterly reports on Form 10-Q of Guaranty for the quarters ended March 31, 2005, September 30, 2004, June 30, 2004 and March 31, 2004; (iv) certain other publicly available financial and other information concerning Guaranty; (v) publicly reported historical prices and trading activity for Guaranty common stock; (vi) the market price of selected publicly traded banking institutions we believe relevant to our inquiry; and (vii) the premiums paid in the acquisition of publicly traded banking institutions. We have conducted such other financial studies, analyses and investigations, as we deemed appropriate for purposes of this opinion.

In conducting our review and in arriving at our opinion, we have relied upon and assumed the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information provided to us or publicly available, and we have not assumed any responsibility for independent verification of the same. We have relied upon the management of Guaranty as to the reasonableness of the financial and operating forecasts and projections (and the assumptions and bases therefor) provided to us, and we have assumed that such forecasts and projections reflect the best currently available estimates and judgments of Guaranty management.

**Table of Contents**

Members of the Board of Directors

**HOEFER & ARNETT**

Guaranty Bancshares, Inc.

**INCORPORATED**

Page 2

We did not make or obtain any evaluations or appraisals of the assets or liabilities of Guaranty. We are not experts in the valuation of allowances for loan losses and we did not make an independent evaluation of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses of Guaranty, nor did we review any individual loan credit files. We assumed that the allowance for loan losses set forth in the financial statements of Guaranty is adequate to cover such losses. For purposes of this opinion, we assumed that the merger would have the tax, accounting and legal effects described in the merger agreement. Hoefer & Arnett's opinion as expressed herein is limited to the fairness of the proposed transaction, from a financial point of view, to the shareholders of Guaranty, and does not address the underlying business decision to proceed with the transaction.

We have considered such financial and other factors as we have deemed appropriate under the circumstances, including among others the following: (i) the historical and current financial position and results of operations of Guaranty, including interest income, interest expense, net interest income, net interest margin, provision for loan losses, non-interest income, non-interest expense, earnings, dividends, internal capital generation, book value, intangible assets, return on assets, return on shareholders' equity, capitalization, the amount and type of non-performing assets, loan losses and the reserve for loan losses, all as set forth in the financial statements for Guaranty; (ii) the assets and liabilities of Guaranty, including the loan, investment and mortgage portfolios, deposits, other liabilities, historical and current liability sources and costs and liquidity; (iii) the market price of selected publicly traded banking institutions; (iv) the premiums paid in the acquisition of publicly traded banking institutions; and (v) the projected levels of accretion to earnings per share that a Holder of Guaranty common stock would achieve on a pro forma basis including assumed cost savings. We have also taken into account our assessment of general economic, market and financial conditions and our experience in other transactions, as well as our experience in securities valuation and our knowledge of the banking industry generally. Our opinion is necessarily based upon conditions as they exist and can be evaluated on the date hereof and the information made available to us through the date hereof.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, we are of the opinion as investment bankers that, as of the date hereof, the terms of the proposed transaction are fair, from a financial point of view, to the shareholders of Guaranty.

As part of its investment banking business, Hoefer & Arnett, Incorporated is regularly engaged in the valuation of bank, bank holding company and thrift securities in connection with mergers, acquisitions, underwritings, sales and distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for estate, corporate and other purposes. Hoefer & Arnett, Incorporated provided investment banking and financial advisory services to Guaranty in 1998 in connection with its initial public offering for which it received customary fees. Hoefer & Arnett, Incorporated provides a full range of financial advisory and securities services and, in the course of its normal trading activities, may effect transactions and hold securities of Guaranty for its own account and for the accounts of customers.

Our opinion is directed to the Board of Directors of Guaranty for its information and assistance in connection with its consideration of the financial terms of the transaction contemplated by the Agreement and does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder of Guaranty as to how such shareholder should vote on the proposed transaction. We hereby consent to the reference to our firm in the proxy statement related to the transaction and to the inclusion of our opinion as an exhibit to the proxy statement related to the transaction.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Hoefer & Arnett, Incorporated

Hoefer & Arnett, Incorporated

**Table of Contents**

*Appendix D*

PROVISIONS OF THE TEXAS BUSINESS CORPORATION ACT  
RELATING TO RIGHTS OF  
DISSENTING SHAREHOLDERS

(Articles 5.11 - 5.13)

**Article 5.11. Rights of Dissenting Shareholders in the Event of Certain Corporate Actions**

A. Any shareholder of a domestic corporation shall have the right to dissent from any of the following corporate actions:

(1) Any plan of merger to which the corporation is a party if shareholder approval is required by Article 5.03 or 5.16 of this Act and the shareholder holds shares of a class or series that was entitled to vote thereon as a class or otherwise;

(2) Any sale, lease, exchange or other disposition (not including any pledge, mortgage, deed of trust or trust indenture unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation) of all, or substantially all, the property and assets, with or without goodwill, of a corporation if special authorization of the shareholders is required by this Act and the shareholders hold shares of a class or series that was entitled to vote thereon as a class or otherwise;

(3) Any plan of exchange pursuant to Article 5.02 of this Act in which the shares of the corporation of the class or series held by the shareholder are to be acquired.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section A of this Article, a shareholder shall not have the right to dissent from any plan of merger in which there is a single surviving or new domestic or foreign corporation, or from any plan of exchange, if:

(1) the shares, or depository receipts in respect of the shares held by the shareholder are part of a class or series, shares, or depository receipts in respect of the shares of which are on the record date fixed to determine the shareholders entitled to vote on the plan of merger or plan of exchange:

(a) listed on a national securities exchange;

Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

(b) listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market (or successor quotation system) or designated as a national market security on an interdealer quotation system by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or successor; or

(c) held of record by not less than 2,000 holders;

(2) the shareholder is not required by the terms of the plan of merger or plan of exchange to accept for the shareholders' shares any consideration that is different than the consideration (other than cash in lieu of fractional shares that the shareholder would otherwise be entitled to receive) to be provided to any other holder of shares of the same class or series of shares held by such shareholder; and

(3) the shareholder is not required by the terms of the plan of merger or the plan of exchange to accept for the shareholder's shares any consideration other than:

(a) shares, or depository receipts in respect of the shares of a domestic or foreign corporation that, immediately after the effective time of the merger or exchange, will be part of a class or series, shares, or depository receipts in respect of the shares, of which are:

(i) listed, or authorized for listing upon official notice of issuance, on a national securities exchange;

D-1

**Table of Contents**

(ii) approved for quotation as a national market security on an interdealer quotation system by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or successor entity; or

(iii) held of record by not less than 2,000 holders;

(b) cash in lieu of fractional shares otherwise entitled to be received; or

(c) any combination of the securities and cash described in Subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subsection.

**Article 5.12. Procedure for Dissent by Shareholders as to Said Corporate Actions**

A. Any shareholder of any domestic corporation who has the right to dissent from any of the corporate actions referred to in Article 5.11 of this Act may exercise that right to dissent only by complying with the following procedures:

(1)(a) With respect to proposed corporate action that is submitted to a vote of shareholders at a meeting, the shareholder shall file with the corporation, prior to the meeting, a written objection to the action, setting out that the shareholder's right to dissent will be exercised if the action is effective and giving the shareholder's address, to which notice thereof shall be delivered or mailed in that event. If the action is effected and the shareholder shall not have voted in favor of the action, the corporation, in the case of action other than a merger, or the surviving or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity that is liable to discharge the shareholder's right of dissent, in the case of a merger, shall, within ten (10) days after the action is effected, deliver or mail to the shareholder written notice that the action has been effected, and the shareholder may, within ten (10) days from the delivery or mailing of the notice, make written demand on the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, as the case may be, for payment of the fair value of the shareholder's shares. The fair value of the shares shall be the value thereof as of the day immediately preceding the meeting, excluding any appreciation or depreciation in anticipation of the proposed action. The demand shall state the number and class of the shares owned by the shareholder and the fair value of the shares as estimated by the shareholder. Any shareholder failing to make demand within the ten (10) day period shall be bound by the action.

(b) With respect to proposed corporate action that is approved pursuant to Section A of Article 9.10 of this Act, the corporation, in the case of action other than a merger, and the surviving or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity that is liable to discharge the shareholder's right of dissent, in the case of a merger, shall, within ten (10) days after the date the action is effected, mail to each shareholder of record as of the effective date of the action notice of the fact and date of the action and that the shareholder may exercise the shareholder's right to dissent from the action. The notice shall be accompanied by a copy of this Article and any articles or documents filed by the corporation with the Secretary of State to effect the action. If the shareholder shall not have consented to the taking of the action, the shareholder may, within twenty (20) days after the mailing of the notice, make written demand on the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, as the case may be, for payment of the fair value of the shareholder's shares. The fair value of the shares shall be the value thereof as of the date the written consent authorizing the action was delivered to the corporation pursuant to Section A of Article 9.10 of this Act, excluding any appreciation or depreciation in anticipation of the action. The demand shall state the number and class of shares owned by the dissenting shareholder and the fair value of the shares as estimated by the shareholder. Any shareholder failing to make demand within the twenty (20) day period shall be bound by the action.

## Edgar Filing: GUARANTY BANCSHARES INC /TX/ - Form PREM14A

(2) Within twenty (20) days after receipt by the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, as the case may be, of a demand for payment made by a dissenting shareholder in accordance with Subsection (1) of this Section, the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity shall deliver or mail to the shareholder a written notice that shall either set out that the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity accepts the amount claimed in the demand and agrees to pay that amount within ninety (90) days after the date on which the action was effected, and, in the case of shares represented by

D-2



**Table of Contents**

certificates, upon the surrender of the certificates duly endorsed, or shall contain an estimate by the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity of the fair value of the shares, together with an offer to pay the amount of that estimate within ninety (90) days after the date on which the action was effected, upon receipt of notice within sixty (60) days after that date from the shareholder that the shareholder agrees to accept that amount and, in the case of shares represented by certificates, upon the surrender of the certificates duly endorsed.

(3) If, within sixty (60) days after the date on which the corporate action was effected, the value of the shares is agreed upon between the shareholder and the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, as the case may be, payment for the shares shall be made within ninety (90) days after the date on which the action was effected and, in the case of shares represented by certificates, upon surrender of the certificates duly endorsed. Upon payment of the agreed value, the shareholder shall cease to have any interest in the shares or in the corporation.

B. If, within the period of sixty (60) days after the date on which the corporate action was effected, the shareholder and the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, as the case may be, do not so agree, then the shareholder or the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity may, within sixty (60) days after the expiration of the sixty (60) day period, file a petition in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the domestic corporation is located, asking for a finding and determination of the fair value of the shareholder's shares. Upon the filing of any such petition by the shareholder, service of a copy thereof shall be made upon the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, which shall, within ten (10) days after service, file in the office of the clerk of the court in which the petition was filed a list containing the names and addresses of all shareholders of the domestic corporation who have demanded payment for their shares and with whom agreements as to the value of their shares have not been reached by the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity. If the petition shall be filed by the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, the petition shall be accompanied by such a list. The clerk of the court shall give notice of the time and place fixed for the hearing of the petition by registered mail to the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity and to the shareholders named on the list at the addresses therein stated. The forms of the notices by mail shall be approved by the court. All shareholders thus notified and the corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity shall thereafter be bound by the final judgment of the court.

C. After the hearing of the petition, the court shall determine the shareholders who have complied with the provisions of this Article and have become entitled to the valuation of and payment for their shares, and shall appoint one or more qualified appraisers to determine that value. The appraisers shall have power to examine any of the books and records of the corporation the shares of which they are charged with the duty of valuing, and they shall make a determination of the fair value of the shares upon such investigation as to them may seem proper. The appraisers shall also afford a reasonable opportunity to the parties interested to submit to them pertinent evidence as to the value of the shares. The appraisers shall also have such power and authority as may be conferred on Masters in Chancery by the Rules of Civil Procedure or by the order of their appointment.

D. The appraisers shall determine the fair value of the shares of the shareholders adjudged by the court to be entitled to payment for their shares and shall file their report of that value in the office of the clerk of the court. Notice of the filing of the report shall be given by the clerk to the parties in interest. The report shall be subject to exceptions to be heard before the court both upon the law and the facts. The court shall by its judgment determine the fair value of the shares of the shareholders entitled to payment for their shares and shall direct the payment of that value by the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, together with interest thereon, beginning 91 days after the date on which the applicable corporate action from which the shareholder elected to dissent was effected to the date of such judgment, to the shareholders entitled to payment. The judgment shall be payable to the holders of uncertificated shares immediately but to the holders of shares represented by certificates only upon, and simultaneously with, the surrender to the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, as the case may be, of duly endorsed certificates for those shares. Upon payment of the judgment, the dissenting shareholders shall cease to have any interest in those

## **Table of Contents**

shares or in the corporation. The court shall allow the appraisers a reasonable fee as court costs, and all court costs shall be allotted between the parties in the manner that the court determines to be fair and equitable.

E. Shares acquired by the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, as the case may be, pursuant to the payment of the agreed value of the shares or pursuant to payment of the judgment entered for the value of the shares, as in this Article provided, shall, in the case of a merger, be treated as provided in the plan of merger and, in all other cases, may be held and disposed of by the corporation as in the case of other treasury shares.

F. The provisions of this Article shall not apply to a merger if, on the date of the filing of the articles of merger, the surviving corporation is the owner of all the outstanding shares of the other corporations, domestic or foreign, that are parties to the merger.

G. In the absence of fraud in the transaction, the remedy provided by this Article to a shareholder objecting to any corporate action referred to in Article 5.11 of this Act is the exclusive remedy for the recovery of the value of his shares or money damages to the shareholder with respect to the action. If the existing, surviving, or new corporation (foreign or domestic) or other entity, as the case may be, complies with the requirements of this Article, any shareholder who fails to comply with the requirements of this Article shall not be entitled to bring suit for the recovery of the value of his shares or money damages to the shareholder with respect to the action.

### **Article 5.13. Provisions Affecting Remedies of Dissenting Shareholders**

A. Any shareholder who has demanded payment for his shares in accordance with either Article 5.12 or 5.16 of this Act shall not thereafter be entitled to vote or exercise any other rights of a shareholder except the right to receive payment for his shares pursuant to the provisions of those articles and the right to maintain an appropriate action to obtain relief on the ground that the corporate action would be or was fraudulent, and the respective shares for which payment has been demanded shall not thereafter be considered outstanding for the purposes of any subsequent vote of shareholders.

B. Upon receiving a demand for payment from any dissenting shareholder, the corporation shall make an appropriate notation thereof in its shareholder records. Within twenty (20) days after demanding payment for his shares in accordance with either Article 5.12 or 5.16 of this Act, each holder of certificates representing shares so demanding payment shall submit such certificates to the corporation for notation thereon that such demand has been made. The failure of holders of certificated shares to do so shall, at the option of the corporation, terminate such shareholder's rights under Articles 5.12 and 5.16 of this Act unless a court of competent jurisdiction for good and sufficient cause shown shall otherwise direct. If uncertificated shares for which payment has been demanded or shares represented by a certificate on which notation has been so made shall be transferred, any new certificate issued therefor shall bear similar notation together with the name of the original dissenting holder of such shares and a transferee of such shares shall acquire by such transfer no rights in the corporation other than those which the original dissenting shareholder had after making demand for payment of the fair value thereof.

C. Any shareholder who has demanded payment for his shares in accordance with either Article 5.12 or 5.16 of this Act may withdraw such demand at any time before payment for his shares or before any petition has been filed pursuant to Article 5.12 or 5.16 of this Act asking for a finding and determination of the fair value of such shares, but no such demand may be withdrawn after such payment has been made or, unless the corporation shall consent thereto, after any such petition has been filed. If, however, such demand shall be withdrawn as hereinbefore provided, or if pursuant to Section B of this Article the corporation shall terminate the shareholder's rights under Article 5.12 or 5.16 of this Act, as the case may be, or if no petition asking for a finding and

determination of fair value of such shares by a court shall have been filed within the time provided in Article

D-4

**Table of Contents**

5.12 or 5.16 of this Act, as the case may be, or if after the hearing of a petition filed pursuant to Article 5.12 or 5.16, the court shall determine that such shareholder is not entitled to the relief provided by those articles, then, in any such case, such shareholder and all persons claiming under him shall be conclusively presumed to have approved and ratified the corporate action from which he dissented and shall be bound thereby, the right of such shareholder to be paid the fair value of his shares shall cease, and his status as a shareholder shall be restored without prejudice to any corporate proceedings which may have been taken during the interim, and such shareholder shall be entitled to receive any dividends or other distributions made to shareholders in the interim.