

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP
Form S-3ASR
September 15, 2010
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 15, 2010

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3 REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SVB Financial Group

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

3003 Tasman Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95054

91-1962278
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

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(408) 654-7400

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

Kenneth P. Wilcox

President and Chief Executive Officer

SVB Financial Group

3003 Tasman Drive

Santa Clara, CA 95054

(408) 654-7400

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

Copy to:

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Professional Corporation

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Palo Alto, CA 94304

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time, after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| | Amount To Be Registered (1) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1) | Amount of Registration Fee (1) |
|---|--|--|---|
| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered | | | |
| Senior Debt Securities | | | |

(1) An indeterminate amount of securities to be offered at indeterminate prices is being registered pursuant to this registration statement. The Registrant is deferring payment of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 456(b) and is omitting this information in reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r). Any additional registration fees will be paid subsequently on a pay-as-you-go basis.

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PROSPECTUS

Senior Debt Securities

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. This means:

we may offer and sell senior debt securities from time to time;

we will provide a prospectus supplement each time we offer and issue the senior debt securities; and

the applicable prospectus supplement will provide specific information about the terms of the senior debt securities offered under it and also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

We will provide the specific terms of the senior debt securities in prospectus supplements to this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement as well as the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus carefully before you invest.

The senior debt securities offered by this prospectus may be offered and sold in the same offering or in separate offerings; to or through underwriters, dealers, and agents; or directly to purchasers. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of the senior debt securities offered by this prospectus, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between or among them, will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. None of the senior debt securities offered by this prospectus may be sold without delivery of the applicable prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of those senior debt securities. See Plan of Distribution.

INVESTING IN OUR SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES INVOLVES SIGNIFICANT RISKS. SEE RISK FACTORS BEGINNING ON PAGE 2 OF THIS PROSPECTUS AND IN ANY APPLICABLE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT BEFORE INVESTING IN ANY SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

OUR SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES TO BE OFFERED AND SOLD PURSUANT TO THIS PROSPECTUS WILL NOT BE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, DEPOSITS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF ANY OF OUR BANK OR NON-BANK SUBSIDIARY AND ARE NOT INSURED OR GUARANTEED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY.

The date of this prospectus is September 15, 2010

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell the senior debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the senior debt securities we may offer. Each time we sell senior debt securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information contained in the prospectus and, accordingly, to the extent inconsistent, information in this prospectus is superseded by the information in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement to be attached to the front of this prospectus may describe, as applicable: the terms of the senior debt securities offered; the initial public offering price; the price paid for the senior debt securities; net proceeds; and the other specific terms related to the offering of the senior debt securities.

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. No person has been authorized to give any information or make any representations in connection with this offering other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and any related issuer free writing prospectus in connection with the offering described herein and therein. Neither this prospectus nor any prospectus supplement nor any related issuer free writing prospectus shall constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy offered securities in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offering or solicitation. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For a more complete understanding of the offering of the senior debt securities, you should refer to the registration statement, including its exhibits.

You should read the entire prospectus and any prospectus supplement and any related issuer free writing prospectus, as well as the documents incorporated by reference, before making an investment decision. Neither the delivery of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any issuer free writing prospectus nor any sale made hereunder shall under any circumstances imply that the information contained or incorporated by reference herein or in any prospectus supplement or issuer free writing prospectus is correct as of any date subsequent to the date hereof or of such prospectus supplement or issuer free writing prospectus, as applicable. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the applicable documents, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of securities. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

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Prospectus Summary

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference. You should carefully read this entire prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including each of the documents incorporated herein or therein by reference, before making an investment decision. When we use or refer to SVB Financial Group, the Company, we, our, us or other similar words, we mean SVB Financial Group and all of its subsidiaries collectively, unless the context otherwise requires or expressly indicated.

SVB Financial Group

SVB Financial is a diversified financial services company, as well as a bank holding company and financial holding company. It was incorporated in the state of Delaware in March 1999. Through our various subsidiaries and divisions, we offer a variety of banking and financial products and services. For over 25 years, we have been dedicated to helping entrepreneurs succeed, especially in the technology, life science, venture capital/private equity and premium wine industries. We provide our clients of all sizes and stages with a diverse set of products and services to support them throughout their life cycles.

We offer commercial banking products and services through our principal subsidiary, Silicon Valley Bank (the Bank), which is a California state-chartered bank founded in 1983 and a member of the Federal Reserve System. Through its subsidiaries, the Bank also offers brokerage, investment advisory and asset management services. We also offer non-banking products and services, such as funds management, venture capital investment and equity valuation services, through our subsidiaries and divisions.

We operate through 26 offices in the United States, as well as offices in China, India, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Other Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 3003 Tasman Drive, Santa Clara, California 95054, and our telephone number is (408) 654-7400. We maintain a website at www.svb.com. We are not incorporating the contents of, or information accessible through, our website into this prospectus.

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RISK FACTORS

Investment in any securities offered pursuant to this prospectus involves risks. The prospectus supplement applicable to each offering of our securities will contain a discussion of the risks applicable to an investment in our securities. Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, you should carefully consider the specific factors discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information contained or incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement or this prospectus. You should also consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions discussed under "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 and any updates described in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, all of which are incorporated herein by reference, and may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future and any prospectus supplement related to a particular offering. The risks and uncertainties we have described are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our operations. The occurrence of any of these known or unknown risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment in the offered securities.

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, each prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and each prospectus supplement contain certain statements that constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements typically are identified by use of terms such as anticipates, expects, intends, plans, seeks, estimates, believes, will, should, could, may, and similar expressions, although some forward-looking statements are expressed differently. Those statements appear in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated herein and therein by reference, particularly in the sections entitled Prospectus Summary, Risk Factors, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Business, and include statements regarding the intent, belief or current expectations of the Company and management that are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement also contain statements that are based on management's current expectations and beliefs, including estimates and projections about our business, industry, financial condition, results of operations, and other matters. Forward-looking statements provide our expectations or predictions of future conditions, events or results. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to numerous risks, uncertainties, and assumptions that are difficult to predict.

By their nature, forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties. These statements speak only as of the date they are made. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated by these forward-looking statements. Except as required by applicable law, including the securities laws of the United States and the rules and regulations of the SEC, we do not plan to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements contained herein after we distribute this prospectus, whether as a result of any new information, future events or otherwise. There are a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, that could cause actual conditions, events or results to differ significantly from those described in the forward-looking statements. The factors are generally described in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q under the caption Risk Factors.

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The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges on a historical basis for each of the periods indicated. You should read these ratios in connection with our consolidated financial statements, including the notes to those statements, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

| | Six months ended | | Year ended December 31, | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | June 30, | | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
| | 2010 | 2009 | | | | |
| <i>Excluding Interest on Deposits</i> | | | | | | |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | 5.78x | 3.57x | 3.51x | 4.46x | 6.17x | 16.86x |
| <i>Including Interest on Deposits</i> | | | | | | |
| Ratio of earnings to fixed charges | 4.05x | 2.53x | 2.70x | 3.82x | 4.98x | 8.44x |

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges has been computed on a consolidated basis. Earnings consist of income before noncontrolling interest and income tax expense, and income from equity investees, as adjusted for fixed charges. Fixed charges, including interest on deposits, consist of interest expense, amortization and debt issuance costs, and the estimated interest component of rental expense. Fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits, consist of interest expense (other than on deposits), amortization and debt issuance costs, and the estimated interest component of rental expense.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including working capital. The timing and amount of our actual expenditures will be based on many factors, including cash flows from operations and the anticipated growth of our business. As a result, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, our management will have broad discretion to allocate the net proceeds of the offerings.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES

This prospectus describes the general terms and provisions of our senior debt securities. When we offer to sell a particular series of senior debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of the series in a supplement to this prospectus. We will also indicate in the supplement whether the general terms and provisions described in this prospectus apply to a particular series of senior debt securities.

Unless otherwise specified in a supplement to this prospectus, the senior debt securities will be our direct, unsecured and senior obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and senior indebtedness.

The senior debt securities will be issued under an indenture between us and U.S. Bank, National Association.

The following is a summary of selected provisions and definitions of the indenture and senior debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The summary of selected provisions of the indenture and the senior debt securities appearing below is not complete and is subject to, and qualified entirely by reference to, all of the provisions of the indenture and certificates evidencing the applicable senior debt securities. For additional information, you should look at the indenture that is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes the prospectus and the certificate evidencing the applicable senior debt security to be filed as an exhibit to a report incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. In this description of the senior debt securities, the words we, us, our or the company refer only to SVB Financial Group and not to any of our subsidiaries, unless we expressly state or the context otherwise requires.

The following description sets forth selected general terms and provisions of the indenture and senior debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. Other specific terms of the indenture and senior debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If any particular terms of the indenture or senior debt securities described in a prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described below, then the terms described below will be deemed to have been superseded by that prospectus supplement.

General

Senior debt securities may be issued in separate series without limitation as to aggregate principal amount. We may specify a maximum aggregate principal amount for the senior debt securities of any series.

We are not limited as to the amount of senior debt securities we may issue under the indenture, though such amount shall be limited by the aggregate principal amount of senior debt securities that we may sell under any applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement, a series of senior debt securities may be reopened to issue additional senior debt securities of such series.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of senior debt securities will set forth:

the offering price;

the title;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount;

the person who shall be entitled to receive interest, if other than the record holder on the record date;

the date or dates the principal will be payable;

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the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, if any, the date from which interest will accrue, the interest payment dates and the regular record dates, or the method for calculating the dates and rates;

the place where payments may be made;

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any mandatory or optional redemption provisions or sinking fund provisions and any applicable redemption or purchase prices associated with these provisions;

if issued other than in denominations of U.S. \$1,000 or any multiple of U.S. \$1,000, the denominations in which the senior debt securities shall be issuable;

if applicable, the method for determining how the principal, premium, if any, or interest will be calculated by reference to an index or formula;

if other than U.S. currency, the currency or currency units in which principal, premium, if any, or interest will be payable and whether we or a holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency;

if the principal, premium, if any, or interest will be payable at the election of the Company or holder in one or more currencies or currency units other than that or those stated by the senior debt securities, the currency or currency units in which such payments shall be payable, the periods within which and the terms and conditions upon which such election is to be made and the amount so payable;

the portion of the principal amount that will be payable upon acceleration of maturity, if other than the entire principal amount;

if the principal amount payable at stated maturity will not be determinable as of any date prior to stated maturity, the amount or method for determining the amount which will be deemed to be the principal amount;

if applicable, that the senior debt securities shall be subject to the defeasance provisions described below under "Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance" or such other defeasance provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for the senior debt securities;

any conversion or exchange provisions;

whether the senior debt securities will be issuable in the form of a global security;

any deletions of, or changes or additions to, the events of default, acceleration provisions or covenants;

any security registrars or other agents for the senior debt securities, if other than the trustee;

any provisions relating to any security provided for the senior debt securities, including any provisions regarding the circumstances under which collateral may be released or substituted;

any provisions relating to guaranties for the senior debt securities and any circumstances under which there may be additional obligors;

any provisions granting special rights to holders when a specified event occurs;

any special interest premium or other premium; and

any other specific terms of such senior debt securities.

Senior debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at time of issuance is below market rates. The U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to senior debt securities sold at a discount will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

For purposes of this Description of the Senior Debt Securities section, references to we, us, our, the Company, and SVB Financial refer to the parent company, SVB Financial Group, and not to any of its consolidated subsidiaries.

Exchange and Transfer

Senior debt securities may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us.

We will not impose a service charge for any transfer or exchange, but we may require holders to pay any tax or other governmental charges associated with any transfer or exchange.

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In the event of any partial redemption of senior debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, any senior debt security of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any senior debt security of that series selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion being redeemed in part.

We will appoint the trustee as the initial security registrar. Any registrar, in addition to the security registrar initially designated by us, will be named in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional registrars or change registrars or change the office of the registrars. However, we will be required to maintain a registrars in each place of payment for the senior debt securities of each series.

Global Securities

The senior debt securities of any series may be represented, in whole or in part, by one or more global securities. Each global security will:

be registered in the name of a depository, or its nominee, that we will identify in a prospectus supplement;

be delivered to the depository or nominee or custodian; and

bear any required legends.

No global security may be exchanged in whole or in part for senior debt securities registered in the name of any person other than the depository or any nominee unless:

the depository has notified us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or has ceased to be qualified to act as depository;

an event of default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the senior debt securities of the applicable series; or

any other circumstance described in a prospectus supplement has occurred permitting or requiring the issuance of any such security.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the provisions described in this paragraph will apply to the senior debt securities. Payment of interest on a senior debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name the senior debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date. Payment on senior debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of a paying agent or paying agents designated by us. However, at our option, we may pay interest by mailing a check to the record holder. The trustee will be designated as our initial paying agent.

We may also name any other paying agents in a prospectus supplement. We may designate additional paying agents, change paying agents or change the office of any paying agent. However, we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the senior debt securities of a particular series.

All amounts paid by us to a paying agent for payment on any senior debt security that remain unclaimed for a period ending the earlier of:

10 business days prior to the date the money would escheat to the applicable state; or

at the end of two years after such payment was due,
will be repaid to us thereafter. The holder may look only to us for such payment.

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Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement with respect to a particular series of senior debt securities, we may not consolidate with or merge into any other person, in a transaction in which we are not the surviving entity, or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to, any person, unless:

the successor entity, if any, is a U.S. corporation;

the successor entity expressly assumes, pursuant to a supplemental indenture, our obligations on the senior debt securities and under the indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing and no event which, after notice or the lapse of time or both, would become a default or event of default, shall have occurred and be continuing; and

certain other conditions specified in the indenture are met.

Upon any such consolidation or merger, or conveyance or transfer, the successor corporation formed, or into which we are merged or to which such conveyance or transfer is made, shall succeed to, and be substituted for, us under the indenture.

This covenant would not apply to any recapitalization transaction, change of control of us or a transaction in which we incur a large amount of additional debt unless the transactions or change of control included a merger or consolidation or transfer of all or substantially all of our assets. There are no covenants or other provisions in the indenture providing for a put or increased interest or that would otherwise afford holders of the notes additional protection in the event of a recapitalization transaction, a change of control of us or a transaction in which we incur or acquire a large amount of additional debt.

Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially as an entirety and similar phrases, there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, in certain circumstances there may be a degree of uncertainty as to whether a particular transaction would involve the property or assets of a person substantially as an entirety.

Covenants

Unless otherwise indicated above or in a prospectus supplement with respect to a particular series of senior debt securities, the senior debt securities will not contain any financial or restrictive covenants.

Events of Default

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the following will be events of default for any series of senior debt securities under the indenture:

- (1) we fail to pay the principal or redemption price of or any premium on any senior debt security of that series when due;
- (2) we fail to pay any interest on any senior debt security of that series for 30 days after it becomes due;
- (3) we fail to deposit any sinking fund payment when due;

(4) we fail to perform any other covenant in the indenture and such failure continues for 90 days after we are given the notice required in the indenture; and

(5) certain events involving bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the company.

Additional or different events of default applicable to a series of senior debt securities may be described in a prospectus supplement. An event of default of one series of senior debt securities is not necessarily an event of default for any other series of senior debt securities.

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The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any default, except defaults in the payment of principal, premium, if any, interest, any sinking fund installment on, or with respect to any conversion right of, the senior debt securities of such series. However, the trustee must consider it to be in the interest of the holders of the senior debt securities of such series to withhold this notice.

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, if an event of default, other than an event of default described in clause (5) above, shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series of senior debt securities, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25 percent in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount and premium, if any, of all the senior debt securities of that series, or if any senior debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities, such other amount as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, in each case together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, thereon, to be due and payable immediately.

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, if an event of default described in clause (5) above shall occur, the principal amount and premium, if any, of all the senior debt securities of that series, or if any senior debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities, such other amount as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, in each case together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, thereon, will automatically become immediately due and payable.

After acceleration, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal or other specified amounts or interest or a default relating to a covenant or other provision of the indenture that cannot be waived without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities of that series, have been cured or waived.

Other than the duty to act with the required care during an event of default, the trustee will not be obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request of the holders unless the holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Generally, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

A holder of senior debt securities of any series will not have any right to institute any proceeding under the indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy under the indenture, unless:

- (1) the holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to the senior debt securities of that series;
- (2) the holders of at least 25 percent in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series have made a written request and have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding; and
- (3) the trustee has failed to institute the proceeding and has not received direction inconsistent with the original request from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series within 60 days after the original request.

Holders may, however, sue to enforce the payment of principal, premium or interest on any senior debt security on or after the due date or to enforce the right, if any, to convert any senior debt security (if the debt security is convertible) without following the procedures listed in (1) through (3) above.

We will furnish the trustee an annual statement from our officers as to whether or not we are in default in the performance of the conditions and covenants under the indenture and, if so, specifying all known defaults.

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Modification and Waiver

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the applicable trustee and we may make modifications and amendments to an indenture with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of each series affected by the modification or amendment.

We may also make modifications and amendments to the indenture for the benefit of holders without their consent, for certain purposes including, but not limited to:

providing for our successor to become the obligor and assume the covenants under the indenture;

adding covenants or events of default, provided that such action shall not adversely affect the holders in any material respect;

making certain changes to facilitate the issuance of the senior debt securities;

securing the senior debt securities;

providing for a successor trustee or additional trustees;

curing any ambiguities or inconsistencies, provided that such action shall not adversely affect the holders in any material respect;

providing for guaranties of, or additional obligors on, the senior debt securities;

permitting or facilitating the defeasance and discharge of the senior debt securities provided that such action shall not adversely affect the holders in any material respect; and

other changes specified in the indenture.

However, neither the trustee nor we may make any modification or amendment without the consent of the holder of each outstanding security of that series affected by the modification or amendment if such modification or amendment would:

change the stated maturity of any senior debt security;

reduce the principal, premium, if any, or interest on any senior debt security or any amount payable upon redemption or repurchase, whether at our option or the option of any holder, or reduce the amount of any sinking fund payments;

reduce the principal of an original issue discount security or any other senior debt security payable on acceleration of maturity;

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change the place of payment or the currency in which any senior debt security is payable;

impair the right to enforce any payment after the stated maturity or redemption date;

adversely affect the right to convert any senior debt security if the senior debt security is a convertible debt security; or

change the provisions in the indenture that relate to modifying or amending the indenture or waiver of past defaults.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance

We may be discharged from our obligations on the senior debt securities, subject to limited exceptions, of any series that have matured or will mature or be redeemed within one year if we deposit enough money with the trustee to pay all the principal, interest and any premium due to the stated maturity date or redemption date of the senior debt securities.

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The indenture contains a provision that permits us to elect either or both of the following:

we may elect to be discharged from all of our obligations, subject to limited exceptions, with respect to any series of senior debt securities then outstanding. If we make this election, the holders of the senior debt securities of the series will not be entitled to the benefits of the indenture, except for the rights of holders to receive payments on senior debt securities or the registration of transfer and exchange of senior debt securities and replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated senior debt securities.

we may elect to be released from our obligations under some or all of any financial or restrictive covenants applicable to the series of senior debt securities to which the election relates and from the consequences of an event of default resulting from a breach of those covenants.

To make either of the above elections, we must irrevocably deposit in trust with the trustee enough money to pay in full the principal, interest and any premium on the senior debt securities. This amount may be made in cash and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of senior debt securities denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars, cash in the currency in which such series of senior debt securities is denominated and/or foreign government obligations. As a condition to either of the above elections, for senior debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the holders of the senior debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the action.

With respect to senior debt securities of any series that are denominated in a currency other than United States dollars, foreign government obligations means:

direct obligations of the government that issued or caused to be issued the currency in which such senior debt securities are denominated and for the payment of which obligations its full faith and credit is pledged, or, with respect to senior debt securities of any series which are denominated in Euros, direct obligations of certain members of the European Union for the payment of which obligations the full faith and credit of such members is pledged, which in each case are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof; or

obligations of a person controlled or supervised by or acting as an agency or instrumentality of a government described in the bullet above the timely payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by such government, which are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof.

Reports

The indenture provides that any reports or documents that we file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act will be filed with the trustee within 15 days after the same is filed with the SEC. Documents filed by us with the SEC via the EDGAR system will be deemed filed with the trustee as of the time such documents are filed with the SEC.

Notices

Notices to holders will be given by mail to the addresses of the holders in the security register.

Governing Law

The indenture and the senior debt securities will be governed by, and construed under, the laws of the State of New York.

No Personal Liability of Directors, Officers, Employees and Stockholders

No incorporator, stockholder, employee, agent, officer, director or subsidiary of ours will have any liability for any obligations of ours, or because of the creation of any indebtedness under the senior debt securities, the

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indenture or any supplemental indenture. The indenture provides that all such liability is expressly waived and released as a condition of, and as a consideration for, the execution of such indenture and the issuance of the senior debt securities.

Regarding the Trustee

The indenture limits the right of the trustee, should it become our creditor, to obtain payment of claims or secure its claims.

The trustee will be permitted to engage in certain other transactions with us. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, and there is a default under the senior debt securities of any series for which it is trustee, the trustee must eliminate the conflict or resign.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered through this prospectus (1) to or through underwriters or dealers, (2) directly to purchasers, including our affiliates, (3) through agents, or (4) through a combination of any of these methods. The securities may be distributed at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, market prices prevailing at the time of sale, prices related to the prevailing market prices, or negotiated prices. The prospectus supplement will include the following information:

the terms of the offering;

the names of any underwriters or agents;

the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;

the purchase price of the securities;

the net proceeds from the sale of the securities;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

any initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any commissions paid to agents.

Sale through Underwriters or Dealers

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account, including through underwriting, purchase, security lending or repurchase agreements with us. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions. Underwriters may sell the securities in order to facilitate transactions in any of our other securities (described in this prospectus or otherwise), including other public or private transactions and short sales. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers. The prospectus supplement will include the names of the principal underwriters, the respective amount of securities underwritten, the nature of the obligation of the underwriters to take the securities and the nature of any material relationship between an underwriter and us.

If dealers are used in the sale of securities offered through this prospectus, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The prospectus supplement will include the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

Direct Sales and Sales through Agents

We may sell the securities offered through this prospectus directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. Such securities may also be sold through agents designated from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities and will describe any commissions payable to the agent by us. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

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We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. The terms of any such sales will be described in the prospectus supplement.

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If the prospectus supplement indicates, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

Market Making, Stabilization and Other Transactions

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, each series of offered securities will be a new issue and will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of offered securities on an exchange. Any underwriters that we use in the sale of offered securities may make a market in such securities, but may discontinue such market making at any time without notice. Therefore, we cannot assure you that the securities will have a liquid trading market.

Any underwriter may also engage in stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Rule 104 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase the underlying security in the open market for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would be in the absence of the transactions. The underwriters may, if they commence these transactions, discontinue them at any time.

Electronic Auctions

We may also make sales through the Internet or through other electronic means. Since we may from time to time elect to offer securities directly to the public, with or without the involvement of agents, underwriters or dealers, utilizing the Internet or other forms of electronic bidding or ordering systems for the pricing and allocation of such securities, you should pay particular attention to the description of that system we will provide in a prospectus supplement.

Such electronic system may allow bidders to directly participate, through electronic access to an auction site, by submitting conditional offers to buy that are subject to acceptance by us, and which may directly affect the price or other terms and conditions at which such securities are sold. These bidding or ordering systems may present to each bidder, on a so-called real-time basis, relevant information to assist in making a bid, such as the clearing spread at which the offering would be sold, based on the bids submitted, and whether a bidder's individual bids would be accepted, prorated or rejected. For example, the clearing spread could be indicated as a number of basis points above an index treasury note. Of course, many pricing methods can and may also be used.

Upon completion of such an electronic auction process, securities will be allocated based on prices bid, terms of bid or other factors. The final offering price at which securities would be sold and the allocation of securities among bidders would be based in whole or in part on the results of the Internet or other electronic bidding process or auction.

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General Information

Agents, underwriters, and dealers may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon by Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, Palo Alto, California. Larry Sonsini, Chairman, of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, is an advisory director of SVB Financial Group with no voting power.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of SVB Financial Group as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, and upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and Current Reports on Form 8-K, including any amendments to those reports, and other information that we file with or furnish to the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act can also be accessed free of charge through the Internet. These filings will be available as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 relating to the offering of these securities. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits, contains additional relevant information about us and the securities. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement. You can obtain a copy of the registration statement, at prescribed rates, from the SEC at the address listed above. The registration statement and the documents referred to below under "Information Incorporated by Reference" are also available on our website at www.svb.com. We have not incorporated by reference into this prospectus the information on our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this prospectus.

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INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus certain information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC (excluding any portions of any Form 8-K that are not deemed filed pursuant to the General Instructions of Form 8-K):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, filed on March 1, 2010, including the information specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 from our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 10, 2010;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010, filed on May 7, 2010 and the quarter ended June 30, 2010, filed on August 6, 2010; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 11, 2010, April 26, 2010, June 16, 2010, July 27, 2010, August 31, 2010 and September 15, 2010 and Amendment to Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on January 11, 2010.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the completion or termination of the offering, but excluding any information deemed furnished and not filed with the SEC. Any statements contained in a previously filed document incorporated by reference into this prospectus is deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in a subsequently filed document also incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes that statement.

This prospectus may contain information that updates, modifies or is contrary to information in one or more of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. In case of a conflict or inconsistency between information contained in this prospectus and information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of this prospectus or the date of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request, at no cost to the requester, a copy of any and all of the information that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Requests for such copies should be directed to our Investor Relations department, at the following address:

SVB Financial Group

3003 Tasman Drive

Santa Clara, CA 95054

(408) 654-6364

You may also access the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus through our website at www.svb.com. Except for the specific incorporated documents listed above, no information available on or through our website shall be deemed to be incorporated in this prospectus or the registration statement of which it forms a part.

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Table of Contents**Part II****Information Not Required in the Prospectus****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, payable by the registrant in connection with the sale of the securities being registered

| | |
|---|------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee | \$ (1) |
| Accounting fees and expenses | (2) |
| Legal fees and expenses | (2) |
| Printing and engraving | (2) |
| Rating agency fees | (2) |
| Fees and expenses of the trustee | (2) |
| Miscellaneous | (2) |
| Total | \$ (2) |

- (1) In accordance with Rule 456(b) and 457(r) we are deferring payment of the registration fee for the securities offered by this prospectus.
(2) These fees and expenses depend on the securities offered and the number of issuances, and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Our bylaws provide that the company will indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the company) by reason of the fact that he is or was a director or officer of the company, or is or was serving at the request of the company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, to the fullest extent authorized by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware against all expenses, liability and loss (including attorneys fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement) reasonably incurred or suffered by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding.

Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that our directors will not be personally liable to the company or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the company or our stockholders, (ii) for acts of omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, as the same exists or hereafter may be amended, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. If the Delaware General Corporation Law is amended to authorize the further elimination or limitation of the liability of directors, then the liability of a director, in addition to the limitation on personal liability described above, will be limited to the fullest extent permitted by the amended Delaware General Corporation Law.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our current directors and executive officers. These agreements provide our directors and executive officers with additional protection regarding the scope of the indemnification set forth in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws.

We have obtained a policy of directors' and officers' liability insurance that insures our directors and officers against the cost of defense, settlement or payment of a judgment under certain circumstances.

Section 145(a) of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action

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by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 145(b) of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person acted in any of the capacities set forth above, against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he or she acted under similar standards, except that no indemnification may be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to be indemnified for such expenses which the court shall deem proper.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law further provides that: (i) to the extent that a former or present director or officer of a corporation has been successful in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) or in the defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith; (ii) indemnification provided for by Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled; and (iii) the corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any present or former director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or any person who at the request of the corporation was serving in such capacity for another entity against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by him or her in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liabilities under Section 145.

See also the undertakings set out in response to Item 17 herein.

Item 16. Exhibits

A list of exhibits filed herewith is contained in the exhibit index that immediately precedes such exhibits and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

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

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

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

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- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;
provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.
- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
- (i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B,
- (A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
- (B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to the effective date; or
- (ii) If the registrant is subject to Rule 430C, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.
- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a

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primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer and sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
 - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
 - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
 - (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding), is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.
- (d) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that:
- (1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.
 - (2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(e)

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The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Santa Clara, State of California, on September 15, 2010.

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP

By: */s/* KEN WILCOX
Ken Wilcox
Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Ken Wilcox and Michael Descheneaux, and each of them acting individually, as his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, each with full power of substitution, for him in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this registration statement (including post-effective amendments), and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of each to act alone, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully for all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or his or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement on Form S-3 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

| Signature | Title | Date |
|---|--|--------------------|
| <i>/s/</i> ALEX W. HART Alex W. Hart | Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director | September 15, 2010 |
| <i>/s/</i> KEN WILCOX Ken Wilcox | Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) | September 15, 2010 |
| <i>/s/</i> MICHAEL DESCHENEUX Michael Descheneaux | Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) | September 15, 2010 |
| <i>/s/</i> KAMRAN HUSAIN Kamran Husain | Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer) | September 15, 2010 |
| <i>/s/</i> ERIC BENHAMOU Eric Benhamou | Director | September 15, 2010 |
| <i>/s/</i> DAVID CLAPPER David Clapper | Director | September 15, 2010 |

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/s/ ROGER DUNBAR

Director

September 15, 2010

Roger Dunbar

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| Signature | Title | Date |
|---|--------------|--------------------|
| /s/ JOEL FRIEDMAN Joel P. Friedman | Director | September 15, 2010 |
| /s/ G. FELDA HARDYMON G. Felda Hardymon | Director | September 15, 2010 |
| /s/ C. RICHARD KRAMLICH C. Richard Kramlich | Director | September 15, 2010 |
| /s/ LATA KRISHNAN Lata Krishnan | Director | September 15, 2010 |
| /s/ KATE MITCHELL Kate Mitchell | Director | September 15, 2010 |
| /s/ JOHN ROBINSON John Robinson | Director | September 15, 2010 |
| /s/ MICHAELA RODENO Michaela Rodeno | Director | September 15, 2010 |
| /s/ KYUNG YOON Kyung Yoon | Director | September 15, 2010 |

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Exhibit Index

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Title |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1.1 | Underwriting Agreement* |
| 4.1 | Form of Indenture, dated as of September , 2010, by and between SVB Financial Group and U.S. Bank National Association |
| 4.2 | Form of Senior Note* |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation |
| 12.1 | Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges |
| 23.1 | Consent of KPMG LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm |
| 23.2 | Consent of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation (included in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (see page II-5) |
| 25.1 | Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of designated Trustee under the Indenture |

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference.