ELLIE MAE INC Form DEF 14A April 07, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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))
- x Definitive Proxy Statement
- " Definitive Additional Materials
- " Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

ELLIE MAE, 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):

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

X

Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(4)

(5)	Total fee paid:			
 Fee paid previously with preliminary materials. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing f 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:			

4420 ROSEWOOD DRIVE PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA 94588 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 25, 2016

To the Stockholders of Ellie Mae, Inc.:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders ("2016 Annual Meeting") of Ellie Mae, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), will be held on May 25, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Company's headquarters at 4420 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, California 94588, for the following purposes:

To elect to the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board") three Class II directors to hold office until our 2019 annual 1. meeting of stockholders or until their successors are elected. The Board intends to present for election the following

three nominees: Carl Buccellato, A. Barr Dolan and Marina Levinson;

- 2. To ratify the selection, by the Audit Committee of the Board, of Grant Thornton LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2016;
- 3. To vote to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 as set forth in this proxy statement;
- 4. To approve the adoption of the Ellie Mae, Inc. Executive Incentive Plan (the "Executive Incentive Plan");
- 5. To vote on a stockholder proposal regarding proxy access, if properly presented at the meeting; and
- 6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the 2016 Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the proxy statement accompanying this Notice (the "Proxy Statement"). Only stockholders who owned our common stock at the close of business on March 31, 2016 can vote at this meeting or any adjournments that take place.

Our Board recommends that you vote FOR the election of the director nominees named in Proposal No. 1 of the Proxy Statement, FOR the ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm as described in Proposal No. 2 of the Proxy Statement, FOR the approval, on a non-binding advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers as described in Proposal No. 3 of the Proxy Statement, FOR the approval of our Executive Incentive Plan as described in Proposal No. 4 of the Proxy Statement, and AGAINST the stockholder proposal regarding proxy access.

For our 2016 Annual Meeting, we have elected to use the Internet as our primary means of providing our proxy materials to stockholders. Consequently, most stockholders will not receive paper copies of our proxy materials. We will instead send to these stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials with instructions for accessing the proxy materials, including our Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Stockholders, and for voting via the Internet. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials also provides information on how stockholders may obtain paper copies of our proxy materials free of charge, if they so choose. The electronic delivery of our proxy materials will significantly reduce our printing and mailing costs and the environmental impact of the proxy materials. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials will also provide the date, time and location of the 2016 Annual Meeting; the matters to be acted upon at the meeting and the Board of Directors' recommendation with regard to each matter; a toll-free number, an e-mail address and a website where stockholders can request a paper or email copy of the Proxy Statement,

our annual report to stockholders and a form of proxy relating to the 2016 Annual Meeting; information on how to access the form of proxy; and information on how to attend the meeting and vote in person.

You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting, but whether or not you expect to attend in person, you are urged to vote and submit your proxy by following the voting procedures described in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or on the proxy card.

By Order of the Board of Directors Brian Brown Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Pleasanton, California
April 7, 2016
IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS
FOR THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDER MEETING
TO BE HELD ON MAY 25, 2016:
The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, Notice of Meeting and
Proxy Statement are available free of charge at: www.proxyvote.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING	2
PROPOSAL NO. 1 — ELECTION OF DIRECTORS	<u>8</u>
PROPOSAL NO. 2 — RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	<u>19</u>
PROPOSAL NO. 3 — ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	<u>21</u>
PROPOSAL NO. 4 — APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE INCENTIVE PLAN	<u>22</u>
PROPOSAL NO. 5 — STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL REGARDING PROXY ACCESS	<u>27</u>
SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT	<u>29</u>
SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE	<u>32</u>
DIRECTOR COMPENSATION	<u>32</u>
COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS	<u>35</u>
EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION	<u>61</u>
REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	<u>62</u>
REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS	<u>63</u>
CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS	<u>64</u>
OTHER MATTERS	<u>65</u>
ANNUAL REPORTS	<u>65</u>

4420 Rosewood Drive Pleasanton, California 94588 PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS May 25, 2016

The Board of Directors of Ellie Mae, Inc. is soliciting your proxy to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 25, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., local time, and any adjournment or postponement of that meeting (the "2016 Annual Meeting"). The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at the Company's headquarters at 4420 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, California 94588.

We have elected to use the Internet as our primary means of providing our proxy materials to stockholders. Accordingly, on or about April 7, 2016, we are making this Proxy Statement and the accompanying Proxy Card, Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Annual Report to Stockholders available on the Internet and mailing a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to stockholders of record as of March 31, 2016 (the "Record Date"). Brokers and other nominees who hold shares on behalf of beneficial owners will be sending their own similar notices. All stockholders as of the Record Date will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or request to receive a printed set of the proxy materials. Instructions on how to request a printed copy by mail or electronically may be found in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and on the website referred to in the notice, including an option to request paper copies on an ongoing basis. We intend to mail this Proxy Statement, together with the accompanying Proxy Card, to those stockholders entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting who have properly requested paper copies of such materials within three business days of request.

The only voting securities of Ellie Mae, Inc. are shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (the "common stock"), of which there were 29,971,612 shares outstanding as of the Record Date (excluding any treasury shares). We need the holders of a majority in voting power of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote, present in person or represented by proxy, to hold the 2016 Annual Meeting.

In this Proxy Statement, we refer to Ellie Mae, Inc. as the "Company," "Ellie Mae," "we" or "us" and our Board of Directors as the "Board." When we refer to Ellie Mae's fiscal year, we mean the twelve-month period ending December 31 of the stated year.

The Company's Annual Report to Stockholders, which contains consolidated financial statements for the 2015 fiscal year, accompanies this Proxy Statement. You also may obtain a paper copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2015 that was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") by writing to our Secretary at the above address. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K is also available in the "Financial Information" section of our website at https://www.elliemae.com/annual-report/ and at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

THE PROXY PROCESS AND STOCKHOLDER VOTING

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING

Who can vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 31, 2016 will be entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. At the close of business on the Record Date, there were 29,971,612 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote.

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If on March 31, 2016, you hold your shares in your own name as a stockholder of record (i.e., your shares were registered directly in your name with Wells Fargo Shareowner Services, our transfer agent), you may vote your shares either by proxy or in person at the meeting. Voting by proxy will not affect your right to vote your shares in person—by voting in person you automatically revoke your previously voted proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting, we urge you to fill out and return the enclosed proxy card or vote by proxy over the telephone or on the Internet as instructed below to ensure your vote is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker, Bank or Other Agent

If on March 31, 2016, your shares were held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in "street name" and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the 2016 Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or other agent on how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting. However, because you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the 2016 Annual Meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your broker or other agent.

What am I being asked to vote on?

You are being asked to vote FOR:

• the election to our Board of the three Class II director nominees named in this Proxy Statement to hold office until our 2019 annual meeting of stockholders;

the ratification of the selection, by the audit committee of the Board, of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year;

the approval, on a non-binding advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, as set forth in this Proxy Statement; and

the approval of the Executive Incentive Plan.

You are being asked to vote AGAINST:

the stockholder proposal regarding proxy access.

In addition, you are entitled to vote on any other matters that are properly brought before the 2016 Annual Meeting. How do I vote?

You may vote by mail or follow any alternative voting procedure described on the proxy card or the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. To use an alternative voting procedure, follow the instructions on each proxy card that you receive or on the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

For the election of directors, you may either vote "FOR" each of the three nominees or you may "Withhold" your vote for any nominee you specify. For the ratification of the selection of the Company's independent auditors, the non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officers for fiscal 2015, the Executive Incentive Plan and the stockholder proposal regarding proxy access, you may vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" or abstain from voting.

The procedures for voting are as follows:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may (i) vote in person at the 2016 Annual Meeting, (ii) vote by proxy over the Internet, or (iii) if you properly request and receive a proxy card by mail or email, vote by signing, dating and returning the proxy card or by telephone. Whether or not you plan to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. Even if you have submitted a proxy before the 2016 Annual Meeting, you may still attend the 2016 Annual Meeting and vote in person. In such case, your previously submitted proxy will be disregarded.

• To vote in person, come to the 2016 Annual Meeting and we will give you a ballot when you arrive. Please bring a valid form of identification, such as a valid driver's license or passport.

To vote by proxy over the Internet, follow the instructions provided in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or on the proxy card. The Internet voting procedures comply with Delaware law.

To vote by telephone, if you properly requested and received a proxy card by mail or email, you may vote by proxy by calling the toll free number found on the proxy card.

To vote by mail, if you properly requested and received a proxy card by mail or email, simply complete, sign and date the proxy card and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the 2016 Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker, Bank or Other Agent

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank or other agent, you should have received a voting instruction card and voting instructions with these proxy materials from that organization rather than from us. Simply complete and mail the voting instruction card to ensure that your vote is counted. To vote in person at the 2016 Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent and present a valid form of identification. Follow the instructions from your broker, bank or other agent included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker, bank or other agent to request a proxy form.

Who counts the votes?

Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge") has been engaged as our independent agent to tabulate stockholder votes. If you are a stockholder of record, and you choose to vote over the Internet or by telephone, Broadridge will access and tabulate your vote electronically, and if you have requested and received proxy materials via mail or email and choose to sign and mail your proxy card, your executed proxy card is returned directly to Broadridge for tabulation. As noted above, if you hold your shares through a broker, your broker (or its agent for tabulating votes of shares held in "street name," as applicable) returns one proxy card to Broadridge on behalf of all its clients. How are votes counted (i.e. What is the voting requirement to approve each of the proposals and how are abstentions and broker non-votes treated)?

The vote required and methods of calculation for the proposals to be considered at the 2016 Annual Meeting are as follows:

Proposal No. 1 Election of directors. If a quorum is present, the nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to the Board. You may vote either "for" or "withhold" your vote for the director nominees. A properly executed proxy marked "withhold" with respect to the election of certain or all of the directors will not be voted with respect to such directors and will not affect the outcome of the election, although it will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum.

The nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes of the holders of shares of outstanding stock entitled to vote and present at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, will be elected as the Class II directors identified herein.

Proposal No. 2 Ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP. If a quorum is present, for the ratification of the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year, the

affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present, represented and entitled to vote on the item will be required for approval. You may vote "for," "against," or "abstain" from the voting on this proposal. If you abstain from voting on this matter, your shares will be counted as present and entitled to vote on the matter for purposes of establishing a quorum, and your abstention will have the same effect as a vote against this proposal.

Proposal No. 2 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of our stock that are present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Proposal No. 3 Advisory vote to approve named executive officer compensation. If a quorum is present, to vote to approve, on a non-binding advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers for the 2015 fiscal year, you may vote "for" or "against" or "abstain" from voting on this proposal. If you choose to "abstain" from voting the shares represented will be counted as present for the purpose of determining a quorum, and will have the effect of a vote "against" this proposal.

Proposal No. 3 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of our stock that are present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding on the Board or the Company. However, the Board will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation.

Proposal No. 4 Approval of the Executive Incentive Plan. If a quorum is present, to vote to approve our Executive Incentive Plan, you may vote "for" or "against" or "abstain" from voting on this proposal. If you choose to "abstain" from voting, the shares represented will be counted as present for the purpose of determining a quorum, and will have the effect of a vote "against" the proposal.

Proposal No. 4 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of our stock that are present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Proposal No. 5 Stockholder Proposal regarding Proxy Access. If a quorum is present, to vote to approve the stockholder proposal regarding proxy access, you may vote "for" or "against" or "abstain" from voting on this proposal. If you choose to "abstain" from voting the shares represented will be counted as present for the purpose of determining a quorum, and will have the effect of a vote "against" the proposal.

Proposal No. 5 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of our stock that are present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Because the proposal is precatory, it is advisory in nature and will not be binding on the Board or the Company. However, the Board will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions on this subject.

If you vote your shares without providing specific instructions, your shares will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the Board.

Brokers who hold shares for the accounts of their clients (that is, in "street name") may vote such shares either as directed by their clients or in the absence of such direction, in their own discretion if permitted by the stock exchange or other organization of which they are members. If your shares are held by a broker on your behalf, and you do not instruct the broker as to how to vote these shares on Proposal No. 2, the broker may exercise its discretion to vote for or against that proposal in the absence of your instruction. With respect to Proposal Nos. 1, 3, 4, or 5, the broker cannot exercise discretion to vote on those proposals. This would be a "broker non-vote" and these shares will not be counted as having been voted on the applicable proposal. "Broker non-votes" will be considered present at the 2016 Annual Meeting and will be counted towards determining whether or not a quorum is present. In order to minimize the number of broker non-votes, please instruct your bank or broker so your vote can be counted.

A summary of the voting provisions, provided a valid quorum is present or represented at the 2016 Annual Meeting, for the above matters is as follows:

ioi tiic ao	ove matters is a	is follows.					Impact of
Proposal No.	Vote	Director Recommendation	Routine or Non-routine	Discretionary Voting by Broker Permitted?	Vote Required for Approval	Impact of Abstentions	Broker Non-votes
1.	Election of director nominees	FOR	Non-routine, thus if you hold your shares in street name, your broker may not vote your shares for you. Routine, thus if you	No	Plurality	No impact	No impact
2.	Ratification of independent registered public accounting firm	FOR	hold your shares in street name, your broker may vote your shares for you absent any other instructions from you.	Yes	Majority of shares presented or represented by proxy and entitled to vote	Isame effect	Broker has the discretion to vote
3.	Advisory, non-binding approval of compensation of named executive officers	FOR	Non-routine, thus if you hold your shares in street name, your broker may not vote your shares for you.	No	Majority of shares presented or represented by proxy and entitled to vote	Isame effect	No impact
4.	Approval of the Executive Incentive Plan	FOR	Non-routine, thus if you hold your shares in street name, your broker may not vote your shares for you.	No	Majority of shares present or represented by proxy and entitled to vote	Isame effect	No impact
5.	Approval of stockholder proposal regarding proxy access	AGAINST	Non-routine, thus if you hold your shares in street name, your broker may not vote your shares for you.	No	Majority of shares present or represented by proxy and entitled to vote	Isame effect	No impact

How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you owned as of March 31, 2016.

Why did I receive a one-page notice in the mail regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials instead of a full set of proxy materials?

Pursuant to rules adopted by the SEC, we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials over the Internet. Accordingly, we are sending a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to our stockholders of record as of the Record Date. All stockholders as of the Record Date will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or request to receive a printed set of the

proxy materials. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a printed copy may be found in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and on the website referred to in the notice. In addition, stockholders may request to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email on an ongoing basis. We encourage stockholders to take advantage of the availability of the proxy materials on the Internet to help reduce the environmental impact of the 2016 Annual Meeting.

How do I vote via Internet or telephone?

You may vote by proxy via the Internet by following the instructions provided in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or on the proxy card. If you properly request and receive printed copies of the proxy materials by mail, you may vote by proxy by calling the toll-free number found on the proxy card. Please be aware that if you vote over the Internet or by telephone, you may incur costs such as telephone and Internet access charges, as applicable, for which you will be responsible. The Internet and telephone voting facilities for eligible stockholders of record will close at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 24, 2016. The giving of such a telephonic or Internet proxy will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting.

The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate stockholders' identities, to allow stockholders to give their voting instructions and to confirm that stockholders' instructions have been recorded properly.

What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?

If we receive a signed and dated proxy card and the proxy card does not specify how your shares are to be voted, your shares will be voted "FOR" the election of each of the three nominees for director, "FOR" the ratification of the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, "FOR" the approval, on an advisory basis, of named executive officer compensation, "FOR" the approval of our Executive Incentive Plan and "AGAINST" the stockholder proposal regarding proxy access. If any other matter is properly presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting, your proxy (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment. Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

We will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to mailing proxy materials, our directors, officers and employees may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone or by other means of communication. Directors, officers and employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners. In addition, we have retained Alliance Advisors, LLC, 200 Broadacres Drive, 3rd Floor, Bloomfield, NJ 07003, at an estimated fee of \$16,000, plus customary costs and expenses, to aid in the solicitation of proxies from brokers, institutional holders and individuals who own a large number of shares of common stock.

What does it mean if I receive more than one set of materials?

If you receive more than one set of materials, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. In order to vote all the shares you own, you must follow the instructions for voting on each Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or proxy card that you receive by mail or email pursuant to your request, which include voting over the Internet, by telephone or by signing, dating and returning any of such proxy cards. Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of three ways:

You may submit another properly completed proxy over the Internet, by telephone or by mail with a later date. You may send a written notice that you are revoking your proxy to our Secretary at Ellie Mae, Inc., 4420 Rosewood Drive, Suite 500, Pleasanton, California 94588.

You may attend the 2016 Annual Meeting and vote in person. Simply attending the 2016 Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy. See page 2 of this Proxy Statement under the caption "Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name" for additional information.

If your shares are held by your broker, bank or other agent, you should follow the instructions provided by them. When are stockholder proposals due for next year's annual meeting?

To be considered for inclusion in our proxy materials for next year's annual meeting in accordance with Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), your proposal must be submitted in writing by December 8, 2016, to our Secretary at Ellie Mae, Inc., 4420 Rosewood Drive, Suite 500, Pleasanton, California 94588 and must otherwise comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act.

In addition, our Bylaws establish an advance notice procedure for stockholders who wish to present certain matters before an annual meeting of stockholders without including those matters in the Company's proxy statement. Such proposals, including the information required by our Bylaws, must be received by our Secretary not later than February 24, 2017 and no earlier than January 25, 2017.

If the date of the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders is moved more than 30 days before or 60 days after the anniversary of the 2016 Annual Meeting, you must give notice not earlier than the 120th day prior to the annual meeting date and not later than the 90th day prior to the annual meeting date or, if later, the 10th day following the day on which such notice of the date of the meeting was mailed or such public disclosure of the annual meeting date is first made. A stockholders notice

to the Company must set forth, as to each matter the stockholder proposes to bring before an annual meeting, the information required by our Bylaws. Our Bylaws have been publicly filed with the SEC.

If you fail to give notice of a stockholder proposal as required by our Bylaws or other applicable requirements, then the proposal will not be included in the proxy statement for our 2017 annual meeting of stockholders and you will not be permitted to present the proposal to the stockholders for a vote at our 2017 annual meeting of stockholders. For information about director nominations by our stockholders, see "Stockholder Recommendations and Nominations for Membership on our Board of Directors" below.

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if the holders of a majority in voting power of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote are present in person or represented by proxy at the 2016 Annual Meeting. On the Record Date, there were 29,971,612 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Accordingly, 14,985,806 shares must be represented by stockholders present at the 2016 Annual Meeting or by proxy to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy vote or vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, either the chair of the 2016 Annual Meeting or a majority in voting power of the stockholders entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting, present in person or represented by proxy, may adjourn the 2016 Annual Meeting to another time or place.

How can I find out the results of the voting at the 2016 Annual Meeting?

Voting results will be announced by the filing of a Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days after the 2016 Annual Meeting. If final voting results are unavailable at that time, we will file an amended Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days of the day the final results are available.

What is householding?

Householding is a procedure approved by the SEC that provides for the delivery of only one copy of our proxy materials to stockholders residing at the same address, unless the stockholders have notified us of their desire to receive multiple copies. This procedure is known as "householding" and is intended to reduce our printing costs and postage fees.

Stockholders who participate in householding will continue to receive separate proxy cards or Notices of Internet Availability.

We will promptly deliver, upon request, separate copies of the proxy statement and annual report to any stockholder residing at an address at which only one copy was mailed. And we will remove your name from the householding program within 30 days of receiving your request. Requests should be addressed to Investor Relations at our principal executive offices. If you are eligible for householding, but you and other stockholders of record currently receive multiple copies of these proxy materials, or if you hold stock in more than one account, and in either case you wish to receive only a single copy of each of these documents for your household, please contact Broadridge, either by calling toll-free at: 1-800-542-1061, or by writing to Broadridge, Householding Department, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

If you are a beneficial stockholder and own your shares through a bank or broker, please contact your bank or broker to request additional copies, or you may contact Broadridge, either by calling toll-free at: 1-800-542-1061, or by writing to Broadridge, Householding Department, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that the Board shall be divided into three classes, with the directors in each class having a three-year term. Unless the Board determines that vacancies (including vacancies created by increases in the number of directors) shall be filled by the stockholders, and except as otherwise provided by law, vacancies on the Board may be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the Board to fill a vacancy (including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors) shall serve for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred and until such director's successor is elected and qualified.

The Board currently consists of eleven directors, divided into the following three classes:

Class I directors: Sigmund Anderman, Craig Davis, Frank Schultz and Rajat Taneja, whose current terms will expire at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2018;

Class II directors: Carl Buccellato, A. Barr Dolan, and Marina Levinson, whose current terms will expire at the 2016 Annual Meeting; and

Class III directors: Karen Blasing, Jonathan Corr, Robert J. Levin and Jeb S. Spencer, whose current terms will expire at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2017.

At each annual meeting of stockholders, the successors to directors whose terms will then expire will be elected to serve from the time of election and qualification until the third subsequent annual meeting of stockholders. Messrs. Buccellato and Dolan and Ms. Levinson have been nominated to serve as Class II directors and have each agreed to stand for election. Each director to be elected will hold office from the date of their election by the stockholders until the third subsequent annual meeting of stockholders or until his or her successor is elected and has been qualified, or until such director's earlier death, resignation or removal.

Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the three nominees named below. In the event that any nominee should be unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, such shares will be voted for the election of such substitute nominee as the Board may propose. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected, and management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with voting your shares, please contact our proxy solicitor assisting us with the 2016 Annual Meeting, Alliance Advisors LLC, by telephone at (855) 973-0093.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE

FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH NAMED NOMINEE.

The following table sets forth, for the Class II nominees and our other current directors who will continue in office after the 2016 Annual Meeting, information with respect to their ages and position/office held with the Company:

Name	Age	Position/Office Held With the Company	Director Since				
Class II Nominees for Election at the 2016 Annual Meeting							
Carl Buccellato (2)(4)	73	Director	1997				
A. Barr Dolan (2)(4)	66	Director	2005				
Marina Levinson (1)(5)	57	Director	2014				
Class III Directors Whose Terms Expire at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders							
Karen Blasing (1)	59	Director	2015				
Jonathan Corr	49	President, Chief Executive Officer and	2015				
Jonathan Con	77	Director	2013				
Robert J. Levin (1)(3)(5)	60	Director	2009				
Jeb S. Spencer (4)	47	Director	2011				
Class I Directors Whose Terms Expire at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders							
Sigmund Anderman	74	Director and Executive Chairman	1997				
Craig Davis (2)(3)	64	Director	2004				
Frank Schultz (3)	77	Director	2000				
Rajat Taneja (5)	51	Director	2015				

- (1) Member of the audit committee of the Board.
- (2) Member of the compensation committee of the Board.
- (3) Member of the nominating and corporate governance committee of the Board.
- (4) Member of the mergers and acquisitions committee of the Board.
- (5) Member of the technology and cybersecurity committee of the Board.

Set forth below is biographical information for the nominees and each person whose term of office as a director will continue after the 2016 Annual Meeting. The following includes certain information regarding our directors' individual experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led the Board to conclude that they should serve as directors. Nominees for Election to a Three-Year Term Expiring at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Carl Buccellato has served on the Board since December 1997 and chairs our compensation committee. From March 2012 to the present, Mr. Buccellato has been a private investor. From May 2008 to February 2012, Mr. Buccellato served as chief executive officer and a director of SavingStreet, LLC, an e-commerce company. From 1996 to May 2008, Mr. Buccellato was a private investor and, from June 2000 to May 2002, he served as a consultant to Ultrastrip Technologies, currently known as Echosphere Technologies, an engineering, technology development and manufacturing company. Mr. Buccellato was a co-founder of Homeowners Group, Inc., a real estate services company, and served as its president and chief executive officer from 1982 to 1996. Mr. Buccellato has also served on a variety of industry boards, including the President's Advisory Council on Real Estate and the Real Estate Buyers Council. The Board has concluded that Mr. Buccellato should serve on the Board and the compensation committee based on his experience in founding and managing a large, nationwide real estate services company, and his extensive background in advising and serving as a director of many high growth companies.

A. Barr Dolan has served on the Board since June 2005 and was previously a member of the Board from December 1997 to November 2000. From 1982 to April 2010, Mr. Dolan served as a general partner of Charter Ventures, a venture capital firm. From 1986 to May 2008, Mr. Dolan was a member of the board of directors for Heska Corporation, a veterinary products company. Mr. Dolan is a member of the board of directors for several private companies, including KFX Inc. and CMD Consulting. Mr. Dolan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry and a Master of Science degree in Engineering from Cornell University, a Master of Arts degree in Applied Science from Harvard University and a Master of Business

Administration degree from Stanford University. The Board has concluded that Mr. Dolan should serve on the Board and the compensation committee based on his significant experience in analyzing, investing in and serving on the boards of directors of many start-up and high growth companies.

Marina Levinson has served on the Board since August 2014 and chairs our technology and cybersecurity committee. Ms. Levinson is the founder and chief executive officer of CIO Advisory Group, LLC, which was founded in September 2011. Since April 2014 she has also been a partner at the venture capital firm Benhamou Global Ventures and chaired the Ellie Mae Technology Advisory Board from March 2012 to August 2014. Ms. Levinson was a member of the board of directors of Qubell, Inc., a private company, sold to Grid Dynamics in August 2015. From 2005-2011, Ms. Levinson served as senior vice president and chief information officer for NetApp, Inc. From 1999-2005, she served as vice president and chief information officer for Palm, Inc., having earlier served as senior director of global integration at 3Com. The Board has concluded that Ms. Levinson should serve on the Board and the audit committee based on her extensive enterprise technology, business process and corporate leadership experience. Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Robert J. Levin has served on the Board since August 2009 and chairs our audit committee. From March 2009 to the present, Mr. Levin has been a consultant. From August 2008 to February 2009, Mr. Levin was a senior advisor to Fannie Mae. From May 1981 to August 2008, Mr. Levin served in a variety of executive positions at Fannie Mae, including serving as chief business officer from January 2006 to August 2008, interim chief financial officer from December 2004 to December 2005 and executive vice president for housing and community development from August 1998 to December 2004. Mr. Levin currently serves as a member of the board of trustees for Morehouse College and the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network. Mr. Levin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Chicago. The Board has concluded that Mr. Levin should serve on the Board and the audit and nominating and corporate governance committees based on his extensive experience as a key executive for many years, serving a variety of functions for Fannie Mae, the largest investor in residential mortgages in the United States.

Jeb S. Spencer has served on the Board since August 2011 and chairs our mergers and acquisitions committee. From September 2006 to the present, Mr. Spencer has served as a managing partner of TVC Capital, a private equity and venture capital firm, of which he is a co-founder. From September 2002 to April 2005, Mr. Spencer served as chief executive officer of Del Mar DataTrac, a mortgage lending automation solutions company, and as its chairman of the board of directors from 2002 to 2005 and from 2008 to 2011. From December 1999 to April 2001, Mr. Spencer served as president and a member of the board of directors of Backwire.com, Inc., an Internet publishing company, of which he was a co-founder. Mr. Spencer was chairman of the board of directors of Accordent Technologies, a video content management company. Mr. Spencer is a member of the board of directors of several private companies, including Centage Corporation, Edgewave, Inc., LocationSmart, Inc., HALO Business Intelligence Inc., Levels Beyond, Inc. and ReverseVision, Inc. Mr. Spencer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Boston College and a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University. The Board has concluded that Mr. Spencer should serve on the Board based on his extensive background in the software industry and his significant experience advising and serving on the boards of directors of many start-up and high growth companies, including companies in the mortgage and software industries.

Jonathan Corr, our chief executive officer since February 2015 and president since February 2013, has served on the Board since February 2015. Previously, Mr. Corr served as our chief operating officer from November 2011 to February 2015, executive vice president and chief strategy officer from November 2009 to November 2011, as chief strategy officer from August 2005 to November 2009 and as the Company's senior vice president of product management from October 2002 to August 2005. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Corr served in executive and management positions at PeopleSoft, Inc., Netscape Communications Corporation and Kana/Broadbase Software/Rubric, a number of software companies that combined through acquisition. The Board has concluded Mr. Corr should serve on the Board based on his leadership experience, deep knowledge of our Company, and strategic mortgage industry and mortgage industry technology knowledge.

Karen Blasing has served on the Board since June 2015. Ms. Blasing served as the Chief Financial Officer of Guidewire Software, Inc. from 2009 to March 2015. Prior to 2009, Ms. Blasing served as the Chief Financial Officer

for Force 10 Networks and the Senior Vice President of Finance for Salesforce.com, inc. She also served as Chief Financial Officer for

Nuance Communications, Inc. and Counterpane Internet Security, Inc., and held senior finance roles for Informix (now IBM Informix) and Oracle Corporation. Ms. Blasing holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of Montana and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Washington. The Board has concluded that Ms. Blasing should serve on the Board and the audit committee based on her financial leadership and experience at numerous SaaS and enterprise software companies.

Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Sigmund Anderman, our founder, has served as executive chairman since February 2015, and as a member of the Board since our inception in August 1997. Mr. Anderman previously served as our chief executive officer from August 1997 through January 2015. Mr. Anderman co-founded American Home Shield Corporation, a home warranty company, in 1973, and served as its general counsel until 1979 and as its chief executive officer from 1979 to 1982. Mr. Anderman founded CompuFund, Inc., a computerized mortgage banking company, in 1982 and served as its chief executive officer until 1991. Mr. Anderman founded Inspectech Corporation, a computerized home inspection company, in 1991 and served as its chief executive officer until 1998. Mr. Anderman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from City University of New York and a Juris Doctor from New York University. The Board has concluded that Mr. Anderman should serve on the Board as executive chairman based on his extensive executive leadership experience, knowledge of our company as founder and former chief executive officer, and comprehensive knowledge of the mortgage and mortgage technology industries.

Craig Davis has served on the Board since January 2004 and serves as the Board's lead independent director. From September 2003 to the present, Mr. Davis has been a private investor. From December 1996 to September 2003, Mr. Davis served as president of the Home Loans and Insurance Services Group at Washington Mutual, a national bank. From January 1989 to December 1996, Mr. Davis held various positions at American Savings Bank, a financial services company, including as executive vice president and director of Mortgage Origination and president of several ASB Subsidiaries. From May 1982 to January 1989, Mr. Davis was executive vice president at Griffin Financial Services, a financial services company and subsidiary of Home Savings of America. Mr. Davis has served on numerous boards and councils including the Real Estate Board of Governors of the Mortgage Bankers Association and Fannie Mae's National Advisory Council. Mr. Davis holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and History from United States International University. The Board has concluded that Mr. Davis should serve on the Board and the compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees based on his extensive experience in the residential mortgage industry and his service as an executive at some of the largest residential mortgage lenders in the United States.

Frank Schultz has served on the Board since June 2000 and chairs the Board's nominating and corporate governance committee. From 1995 to the present, Mr. Schultz has been a private investor. From 1992 to 1995, Mr. Schultz served as chief executive officer, president and chairman of the board of directors of ITT Financial Corp., a financial services company. From 1983 to 1992, Mr. Schultz was an executive vice president at Bank of America, a financial services company, at which he oversaw consumer marketing, credit card and mortgage divisions. Mr. Schultz previously has served as a member of Fannie Mae's National Advisory Board and as a member of the Mortgage Bankers Association's Presidents' Council. Mr. Schultz holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University. The Board has concluded that Mr. Schultz should serve on the Board and the nominating and corporate governance committee based on his extensive experience serving as an executive and board member of companies in the mortgage and financial services industry.

Rajat Taneja has served on the Board since June 2015. From November 2013 to the present, Mr. Taneja has served as the Executive Vice President of Technology at Visa Inc. Mr. Taneja served as Global Chief Technology Officer of Electronic Arts Inc. from 2011 to 2013 and also served as its Executive Vice President. Prior to Electronic Arts, Mr. Taneja spent 15 years at Microsoft Corporation where he last served as Corporate Vice President of Microsoft's commerce division. Mr. Taneja holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in electrical engineering from Jadavpur University, India, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Washington State University. The Board has concluded that Mr. Taneja should serve on the Board based on his experience in innovation and his deep technology leadership.

Executive Officers

The following is biographical information for our executive officers not discussed above.

NameAgePosition(s)Peter Hirsch55EVP, Technology & OperationsLimin Hu54EVP, Chief Technology Officer

Edgar A. Luce 64 EVP, Finance & Administration, Chief Financial Officer

Cathleen Schreiner Gates 61 EVP, Sales & Marketing Joseph Tyrrell 50 EVP, Corporate Strategy

Brian Brown 34 SVP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Peter Hirsch has served as our executive vice president of technology and operations since June 2015. He oversees all our technology areas including product architecture, engineering, cloud infrastructure and operations, internal information technology and security. From February 2013 to June 2015, Mr. Hirsch served in senior technology roles at Ariba (now SAP Ariba), most recently as CTO and Senior Vice President of Cloud Engineering and Technology, leading the mainline cloud engineering team. From August 2006 to February 2013, Mr. Hirsch served as Chief Architect and Business Unit Leader for IBM's collaborative business process management applications where he helped establish IBM's presence in commercial SaaS applications. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering and an MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California.

Limin Hu, one of our founders, has served as our chief technology officer since the inception of the Company in August 1997 and as our executive vice president and chief technology officer since November 2009. From January 1996 to August 1997, Mr. Hu served as chief executive officer and president of Hugo Technologies, Inc., a technology consulting firm. From December 1994 to January 1996, he served as vice president and general manager at Teknekron Corporation, a software consulting company, and as its Director of Systems Technology from March 1994 to December 1994. From December 1990 to March 1994, Mr. Hu held various research positions at IBM Research Center. Mr. Hu holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from National Taiwan University and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Edgar A. Luce has served as our chief financial officer since July 2005 and as our executive vice president and chief financial officer since November 2009. From November 2004 to July 2005, Mr. Luce served as our acting chief financial officer. From January 2001 to April 2004, Mr. Luce served as chief financial officer for Sanarus Medical, Inc., a medical device company. From March 2000 to January 2001, he was chief financial officer, secretary and treasurer at ComView Corporation, a cardiology imaging software company. From February 1997 to March 2000, Mr. Luce was chief financial officer at Biex, Inc., a healthcare company, and from August 1991 to February 1997, he served as vice president, finance and administration and corporate secretary for Penederm Inc., a public dermatology products company. Mr. Luce holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Stanford University and a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Cathleen Schreiner Gates has served as our executive vice president of sales & marketing since March 2015. She oversees all sales, marketing, client management, professional services and customer support and training. Ms. Schreiner Gates previously served as our senior vice president of sales and client services from February 2012 to March 2015. From January 2010 to December 2011 Ms. Schreiner Gates served as senior vice president of sales and client services for Bersin & Associates and from October 2008 to December 2010 she served as vice president of sales, business development and client success for Clickability, Inc. She has held various senior management positions with MarketTools, Inc. and Keynote Systems/Vividence, Inc. Ms. Schreiner Gates holds an MBA in finance from the Rutgers Graduate School of Management and a BA in French literature from Douglass College-Rutgers University. Joseph Tyrrell has served as our executive vice president of corporate strategy since March 2015. He oversees our product strategy, product management and our business and corporate development efforts involving our network of current

and potential business partners and merger and acquisition strategies. Mr. Tyrrell has been with our company since 2002 and previously held the positions of senior vice president of corporate strategy from May 2014 to March 2015 and senior vice president of client management and business development from August 2013 to March 2014. Prior to joining Ellie Mae, Mr. Tyrrell served as vice president for Providian Financial in addition to other executive positions within the mortgage industry. Mr. Tyrrell holds a Bachelors of Art in Business Management from St. Mary's College. Brian Brown has served as our senior vice president and general counsel since February 2016 and was previously our vice president of legal affairs and secretary from March 2015 to February 2016 and senior corporate counsel from January 2014 to March 2015. Prior to joining us, from 2007 through 2014, Mr. Brown was an attorney at Goodwin Proctor LLP, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC, and Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Mr. Brown holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo and a Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School.

Independence of the Board of Directors

As required under the rules and regulations of the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"), a majority of the members of a listed company's board of directors must qualify as "independent," as affirmatively determined by the Board. The Board consults with the Company's counsel to ensure that the Board's determinations are consistent with all relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of "independent," including those set forth in pertinent listing standards of the NYSE, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant transactions or relationships between each director, or any of his or her family members, and the Company, its senior management and its independent registered public accounting firm, the Board has affirmatively determined that Messrs. Buccellato, Davis, Dolan, Levin, Schultz and Taneja, and Ms. Blasing and Ms. Levinson are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable NYSE listing standards.

As required under the NYSE rules and regulations, our independent directors meet in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors are present. The lead independent director, or if unavailable another independent director designee, presides at such executive sessions. Each of our audit committee, compensation committee, and nominating and corporate governance committee is composed entirely of directors determined by the Board to be independent within the meaning of the NYSE rules and regulations.

Information Regarding the Board of Directors and its Committees

Board Responsibilities; Risk Oversight

The Board is responsible for, among other things, overseeing the conduct of our business; reviewing and, where appropriate, approving our major financial objectives, plans and actions; and reviewing the performance of our chief executive officer and other members of management based on reports from the compensation committee. Following the end of each year, the Board conducts a self-evaluation, which includes a review of any areas in which the Board or management believes the Board can make a better contribution to our corporate governance, as well as a review of the committee structure and an assessment of the Board's compliance with corporate governance principles. In fulfilling the Board's responsibilities, directors have full access to our management and independent advisors. With respect to the Board's role in our risk oversight, the audit committee discusses with management our policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management and our significant financial risk exposures and the actions management has taken to limit, monitor or control such exposures. The audit committee reports to the full Board with respect to these matters, among others.

Board Leadership

Chairman

Mr. Anderman currently serves as our chairman of the Board and holds the title of executive chairman. Mr. Corr serves as our chief executive officer. The Board has not adopted a specific policy on whether the same person should serve as both the chief executive officer and chairman of the Board or, if the roles are separate, whether the chairman should be selected from the non-employee directors or should be an employee. The Board believes it is appropriate to retain the discretion and flexibility to make these determinations from time to time as needed to provide appropriate leadership for the Company. At this

time, the Board believes that it has achieved the best Board leadership structure for the Company and our stockholders by appointing Mr. Anderman as our executive chairman and Mr. Corr as our chief executive officer. Lead Independent Director

Mr. Davis currently serves as the lead independent director. The lead independent director presides at all meetings of the Board at which the chairman or chief executive officer are not present, including executive sessions of the Board and the independent directors, briefs the chairman of the Board on any issues arising in the executive sessions, facilitates discussions among independent directors on key issues and concerns outside of Board meetings, suggests calling Board meetings to the chairman of the Board when appropriate, serves as a liaison between the chairman and the other directors, approves information sent to the Board, collaborates with the chairman of the Board to set meeting agendas and Board information, assists the chairs of the committees of the Board as requested, is available for consultation and direct communication with major stockholders upon request and performs such other functions and responsibilities as set forth in the our corporate governance guidelines or as requested by the Board or the independent directors from time to time. The lead independent director also has the authority to call additional executive sessions of the independent directors and to encourage direct dialogue between all directors and management, set the agenda for executive sessions of the Board and independent directors and to retain outside advisors and consultants that will report directly to the Board on board-wide issues. In performing the duties described above, the lead independent director may not also serve as the chair of the nominating and corporate governance committee.

Board Committees

The Board has the following standing committees: an audit committee; a compensation committee; a nominating and corporate governance committee; a mergers and acquisitions ("M&A") committee and a technology and cybersecurity committee. The composition and responsibilities of each committee are described below. Members serve on these committees until their resignation or until otherwise determined by the Board.

The members of each of these committees as of December 31, 2015 are identified below.

Audit Committee	Compensation Committee	Corporate Governance Committee	M&A Committee	Technology and Cybersecurity Committee
Robert J. Levin (chair)	Carl Buccellato (chair)	Frank Schultz (chair)	Jeb S. Spencer (chair)	Marina Levinson (chair)
Karen Blasing	Craig Davis	Craig Davis	Carl Buccellato	Robert J. Levin
Marina Levinson Audit Committee	A. Barr Dolan	Robert J. Levin	A. Barr Dolan	Rajat Taneja

The audit committee oversees our corporate accounting and financial reporting process. Among other matters, the audit committee: evaluates the independent auditors' qualifications, independence and performance; determines the engagement of the independent auditors; reviews and approves the scope of the annual audit and the audit fee; discusses with management and the independent auditors the results of the annual audit and the review of our quarterly consolidated financial statements; approves the retention of the independent auditors to perform any proposed permissible non-audit services; monitors the rotation of partners of the independent auditors on the Ellie Mae engagement team as required by law; reviews our critical accounting policies and estimates; reviews and approves all material transactions with any related party; reviews our corporate code of business conduct and ethics; and annually reviews the audit committee charter and the committee's performance. The audit committee consists of directors Robert J. Levin, Karen Blasing and Marina Levinson, with Mr. Levin serving as the chair of the committee. The audit committee as constituted satisfies the independence requirements of the NYSE and the audit committee director independence requirements established by the SEC that apply to companies listed on the NYSE. The Board has determined that each of Mr. Levin and Ms. Blasing are audit committee financial experts as defined under the applicable rules of the SEC and has the financial literacy and accounting or related financial management expertise

required under applicable NYSE rules and regulations. This designation is a disclosure requirement of the SEC and does not impose upon Mr. Levin or Ms. Blasing any duties, obligations, or liabilities greater than that which would otherwise be imposed by virtue of their membership on the Board or the audit committee. In addition, this designation does not affect the duties, obligations, or liabilities of any other director or audit committee member. The Board has determined that each audit committee member has sufficient knowledge in reading and understanding financial statements to serve on the audit committee. All of the members of the audit committee are independent directors as defined under applicable SEC and NYSE rules and regulations. The audit committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable standards of the SEC and the NYSE. A copy of the audit committee charter and our code of business conduct and ethics are available on the Company's website at

http://www.elliemae.com/about/investor-relations/corporate-governance.

Compensation Committee

The compensation committee reviews and recommends policies relating to compensation and benefits of our executive officers and employees. The compensation committee reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our chief executive officer and other executive officers, evaluates the performance of these officers in light of those goals and objectives, and sets the compensation of these officers based on such evaluations. The compensation committee also oversees the issuance of stock options, restricted stock units, executive performance shares and other awards under our employee stock plans. In addition, the compensation committee has authority to retain and fund compensation consultants, legal counsel and other compensation advisers and is generally responsible for considering the independence of such advisers prior to selecting them. The compensation committee will review and evaluate, at least annually, the performance of the compensation committee and its members, including compliance of the compensation committee with its charter. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the compensation committee may delegate any or all of its responsibilities to a subcommittee of the compensation committee, but only to the extent consistent with our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws, Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (to the extent applicable), NYSE rules and other applicable law. The compensation committee consists of directors Carl Buccellato, Craig Davis and A. Barr Dolan, with Mr. Buccellato serving as the chair of the committee. All of the members of the compensation committee are independent under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, the NYSE and the Internal Revenue Code. A copy of the compensation committee charter is available on the Company's website at http://www.elliemae.com/about/investor-relations/corporate-governance.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The nominating and corporate governance committee is responsible for making recommendations regarding candidates for directorships and the size and composition of the Board. In addition, the nominating and corporate governance committee is responsible for overseeing our corporate governance guidelines and reporting and making recommendations concerning governance matters. The nominating and corporate governance committee will review and evaluate, at least annually, the performance of the nominating and corporate governance committee and its members, including compliance of the nominating and corporate governance committee with its charter. The nominating and corporate governance committee consists of directors Craig Davis, Robert J. Levin and Frank Schultz, with Mr. Schultz serving as chair of the committee. A copy of nominating and corporate governance committee charter and our corporate governance guidelines are available on the Company's website at http://www.elliemae.com/about/investor-relations/corporate-governance.

Mergers and Acquisitions Committee

The M&A committee is responsible for reviewing the Company's acquisition strategy, as well as reviewing potential mergers, acquisitions, investments or dispositions of material assets or a material portion of any business ("Major Transactions") and reporting its conclusions and recommendations to the Board, as appropriate. Among other matters, the M&A committee: reviews with management and the Board any potential Major Transaction and how the Major Transaction fits with the Company's strategic plans and acquisition strategy; has the authority to evaluate and conduct due diligence with respect to potential acquisition and investment candidates on behalf of the Company; reviews with management the integration of any acquired businesses and whether the Major Transaction met the Company's business objectives and strategic plans; and has the ability to retain special legal, accounting or other consultants or

advisors to advise the M&A committee without seeking

Board approval. In addition, the M&A committee will review and evaluate, at least annually, the performance of the M&A committee and its members, including compliance of the M&A committee with its charter. The M&A committee consists of directors Carl Buccellato, A. Barr Dolan and Jeb S. Spencer, with Mr. Spencer serving as chair of the committee.

Technology and Cybersecurity Committee

The technology and cybersecurity committee is responsible for overseeing the Company's information technology ("IT") strategy, operations, policies and controls, including with respect to product development, risk management, IT security, regulatory matters and internal IT controls. Among other matters, the technology and cybersecurity committee reviews reports from management or other third parties relating to the Company's IT strategy and operations, focusing on IT security, "cloud" service capacity and product reliability. The technology and cybersecurity committee has the ability to retain independent counsel or outside experts and advisors that it deems necessary and without seeking Board approval. In addition, the technology and cybersecurity committee will review and evaluate, at least annually, the performance of the technology and cybersecurity committee and its members, including compliance of the technology and cybersecurity committee with its charter. The technology and cybersecurity committee consists of directors Marina Levinson, Robert J. Levin and Rajat Taneja, with Ms. Levinson serving as chair of the committee.

Meetings of the Board of Directors, Board and Committee Member Attendance and Annual Meeting Attendance The Board met nine times during last year. The audit committee met 12 times, the compensation committee met 10 times, the nominating and corporate governance committee met four times, the M&A committee met eight times and the technology and cybersecurity committee met five times.

During 2015, each incumbent member of the Board attended or participated in at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board and of all the committees on which he or she served. Directors meet their responsibilities not only by attending Board and committee meetings, but also through communication with executive management, independent accountants, advisors and consultants and others on matters affecting the Company.

We encourage all of our directors and nominees for director to attend our annual meeting of stockholders; however, attendance is not mandatory. All of our directors attended our annual meeting of stockholders in 2015.

Communications with the Board of Directors or Non-Management Directors

Interested parties who wish to communicate with the Board or with non-management directors, including our lead independent director, may send their communications in writing to the attention of the Secretary, at Ellie Mae, Inc., 4420 Rosewood Drive, Suite 500, Pleasanton, California 94588. The Secretary will forward the communication to the Board or any specified individual directors, as appropriate.

Stockholder Recommendations and Nominations for Membership on our Board of Directors

The policy of our nominating and corporate governance committee is to consider properly submitted stockholder recommendations for candidates for membership on the Board. In evaluating such recommendations, the nominating and corporate governance committee will address the membership criteria set forth under "Director Qualifications." Any stockholder recommendations proposed for consideration by the nominating and corporate governance committee should be provided in writing and should be addressed to our Secretary at Ellie Mae, Inc., 4420 Rosewood Drive, Suite 500, Pleasanton, California 94588. Stockholder recommendations must include the nominee's name and qualifications for membership on the Board, a document signed by the candidate indicating the candidate's willingness to serve, if elected, and evidence of the stockholder's ownership of our common stock.

In addition to stockholder recommendations of candidates for membership on the Board, a stockholder may nominate an individual for election to our Board in the manner set forth in, and in accordance with the provisions of, our Amended and Restated Bylaws. Under Section 2.5 of our Bylaws, for a stockholder to make any nomination for election to the Board at an annual meeting, the stockholder must provide notice to the Company, which notice must be delivered to, or mailed and received at, the Company's principal executive offices not less than 90 days and not more than 120 days prior to the one-year anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting; provided, that if the date of the annual meeting is more than 30 days before

or more than 60 days after such anniversary date, the stockholder's notice must be delivered, or mailed and received, not later than 90 days prior to the date of the annual meeting or, if later, the 10th day following the date on which public disclosure of the date of such annual meeting is made. Further updates and supplements to such notice may be required at the times and in the forms required under our Bylaws. Accordingly, assuming that the annual meeting of our stockholders to be held in 2017 occurs within 30 days before or 60 days after the first anniversary date of the Annual Meeting, any such notice of a nomination delivered by or on behalf of a stockholder pursuant to Section 2.5 of our Bylaws must be received no earlier than January 25, 2017 and no later than February 24, 2017.

As set forth in our Bylaws, submissions must include the name and address of the proposed nominee, information regarding the proposed nominee that is required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filings in a contested election pursuant to Section 14(a) under the Exchange Act, information regarding the proposed nominee's indirect and direct interests in shares of the Company's common stock, and a completed and signed questionnaire, representation and agreement of the proposed nominee. Our Bylaws also specify further requirements as to the form and content of a stockholder's notice. We recommend that any stockholder wishing to make a nomination for director review a copy of our Bylaws, as amended and restated to date, which is available, without charge, from our Secretary, at Ellie Mae, Inc., 4420 Rosewood Drive, Suite 500, Pleasanton, California 94588.

Director Qualifications

Our corporate governance guidelines contain membership criteria that apply to nominees for election to our Board. In recommending candidates for election to the Board, the independent members of the nominating and corporate governance committee may consider the following criteria, among others the nominating and corporate governance committee shall deem appropriate: diversity of personal and professional background, perspective and experience; personal and professional integrity, ethics and values; experience in corporate management, operations or finance, such as serving as an officer or former officer of a publicly held company and a general understanding of marketing, finance and other elements relevant to the success of a publicly-traded company in today's business environment; experience in the Company's industry and with relevant social policy concerns; experience as a board member or executive officer of another publicly held company; academic expertise in an area of the Company's operations; practical and mature business judgment, including ability to make independent analytical inquiries; diversity of business or career experience relevant to the success of the Company; and any other relevant qualifications, attributes or skills. The Board evaluates each individual in the context of the Board as a whole, with the objective of assembling a group that can best perpetuate the success of the business and represent stockholder interests through the exercise of sound judgment using its diversity of experience in these various areas.

The Board considers a number of factors in its evaluation of diversity, including gender, age, and ethnicity. As indicated above, diversity is one factor among many that the Board considers when evaluating director candidates. The nominating and corporate governance committee monitors its assessment of diversity as part of its annual self-evaluation process. The nominating and corporate governance committee will reassess the qualifications of a director, including the director's attendance, involvement at Board and committee meetings and contribution to Board diversity, prior to recommending a director for re-election. Nominees will be screened to ensure each candidate has qualifications which complement the overall core competencies of the Board. The screening process for new nominees includes conducting a background investigation and an independence determination.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During 2015, each of Carl Buccellato, Craig Davis, A. Barr Dolan and former director Bernard M. Notas served on the compensation committee. Mr. Notas, whose resignation from the Board was effective at the conclusion of our 2015 annual stockholder meeting held on June 17, 2015, had served as both the chair and a member of the committee. Mr. Buccellato has served as the chair of the committee since June 17, 2015. None of the members of the compensation committee is or has at any time during last year been an officer or employee of ours or was formerly an officer of ours. None of our executive officers currently serves or in the last year has served as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on the Board or compensation committee.

Risk Assessment and Compensation Practices

Our management assesses and discusses with the compensation committee our compensation policies and practices for our employees as they relate to our risk management and, based upon this assessment, we believe that any risks arising from such policies and practices are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us in the future. Our employees' base salaries are fixed in amount and thus we do not believe that they encourage excessive risk-taking. While performance-based cash bonuses and sales commissions focus on achievement of short-term or annual goals, which may encourage the taking of short-term risks at the expense of long-term results, we believe that our compensation policies help mitigate this risk and our performance-based cash bonuses and sales commissions are limited, representing a small portion of the total compensation opportunities available to most non-executive employees. We also believe that our performance-based cash bonuses and sales commissions appropriately balance risk and the desire to focus our employees on specific short-term goals important to our success, and do not encourage unnecessary or excessive risk-taking.

A significant proportion of the compensation provided to most of our employees is in the form of long-term equity-based incentives that we believe are important to help further align our employees' interests with those of our stockholders. We do not believe that these equity-based incentives encourage unnecessary or excessive risk taking because vesting schedules are staggered and their ultimate value is tied to our stock price.

This Proxy Statement, including the preceding paragraphs, contains forward-looking statements. We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events. Forward-looking statements contained in this Proxy Statement should be considered in light of the many uncertainties that affect our business and specifically those factors discussed from time to time in our public reports filed with the SEC, such as those discussed under the heading, "Risk Factors," in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and as may be updated in subsequent SEC filings.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The audit committee of the Board has engaged Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016, and is seeking ratification of such selection by our stockholders at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Grant Thornton LLP has audited our financial statements since the year ended December 31, 2002. Representatives of Grant Thornton LLP are expected to be present at the 2016 Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions. Neither our Bylaws nor other governing documents or applicable law require stockholder ratification of the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. However, the audit committee is submitting the selection of Grant Thornton LLP to our stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If our stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the audit committee will reconsider whether or not to retain Grant Thornton LLP. Even if the selection is ratified, the audit committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if they determine that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders.

To be approved, the ratification of the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm must receive a "FOR" vote from the holders of a majority in voting power of the shares of common stock which are present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards a quorum. Abstentions will have the same effect as an "AGAINST" vote for purposes of determining whether this matter has been approved. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The following table provides information regarding the fees accrued or paid to Grant Thornton LLP for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. All fees described below were approved by the audit committee.

	Year Ended D	ecember 31,
	2015	2014
Audit Fees	\$1,034,902	\$771,175
Audit-Related Fees	_	
Tax Fees	_	
All Other Fees	\$38,467	
Total Fees	\$1,073,369	\$771,175
A 114 T		

Audit Fees

Audit fees of Grant Thornton LLP during 2015 and 2014 included the audits of Company's annual consolidated financial statements, the reviews of each of the quarterly condensed consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, services rendered in connection with our registration statements on Form S-8 and other matters related to our SEC filings.

Audit-Related Fees

There were no audit-related fees paid to Grant Thornton LLP during 2015 and 2014.

Tax Fees

There were no tax fees paid to Grant Thornton LLP during 2015 and 2014. The Company engages a different third-party service provider for its tax services.

All Other Fees

All other fees of Grant Thornton LLP during 2015 consist solely of insurance review services. There were no other fees of Grant Thornton LLP during 2014.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

The audit committee pre-approves all audit and non-audit services provided by its independent registered public accounting firm. This policy is set forth in the charter of the audit committee and available at http://www.elliemae.com/about/investor-relations/corporate-governance.

The audit committee approved all audit services provided by Grant Thornton LLP for 2015 and 2014 and the estimated costs of those services. Actual amounts billed, to the extent in excess of the estimated amounts, were periodically reviewed and approved by the audit committee.

The audit committee considered whether the non-audit services rendered by Grant Thornton LLP were compatible with maintaining Grant Thornton LLP's independence and concluded that they were so compatible.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with voting your shares, please contact our proxy solicitor assisting us with the 2016 Annual Meeting, Alliance Advisors LLC, by telephone at (855) 973-0093.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF GRANT THORNTON LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016.

PROPOSAL NO. 3

ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act, the Company is providing stockholders with an advisory (non-binding) vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officers (sometimes referred to as "say on pay" vote). Accordingly, you may vote on the following resolution at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

"Resolved, that the stockholders approve, on a non-binding advisory basis, the compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in this Proxy Statement, pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the accompanying compensation tables and the related narrative disclosure that accompany the compensation tables."

To be approved, this proposal must receive a "FOR" vote from the holders of a majority in voting power of the shares of common stock which are present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards a quorum. Abstentions will have the same effect as an "AGAINST" vote for purposes of determining whether this matter has been approved. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

This vote is nonbinding. The Board and the compensation committee, which is composed of independent directors, expect to take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation decisions to the extent they can determine the cause or causes of any significant negative voting results. Consistent with the stated preference of a majority of our stockholders, the Board and the compensation committee determined that we will hold a say on pay vote every year. Unless the Board and the compensation committee modify their policy on the frequency of future say on pay votes, the next say on pay vote will be held at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders.

As described in detail in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," our executive compensation program is designed to motivate our executive officers to create a successful company. Our philosophy is to link a significant percentage of our executive officers' compensation to stockholder returns and to keep cash compensation to a competitive level while providing the opportunity to be well-rewarded through equity if we perform well over time. We believe that our executive compensation program, with its balance of short-term incentives (including performance bonuses) and long-term incentives (including equity awards), rewards sustained performance that is aligned with long-term stockholder interests. Stockholders are encouraged to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the accompanying compensation tables and the related narrative disclosure.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with voting your shares, please contact our proxy solicitor assisting us with the 2016 Annual Meeting, Alliance Advisors LLC, by telephone at (855) 973-0093. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL, ON AN ADVISORY BASIS, OF THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AS DISCLOSED IN THE COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, THE ACCOMPANYING COMPENSATION TABLES AND THE RELATED NARRATIVE DISCLOSURE INCLUDED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT.

PROPOSAL NO. 4

APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE INCENTIVE PLAN

On March 14, 2016, our compensation committee adopted the Ellie Mae, Inc. Executive Incentive Plan (the "Executive Incentive Plan") in order to qualify incentive compensation granted to our Named Executive Officers as "performance-based compensation" within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"), and the regulations and interpretations promulgated thereunder ("Section 162(m)"), and therefore fully deductible by us for federal income tax purposes. Our compensation committee directed that the Executive Incentive Plan be submitted to our stockholders for approval at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Pursuant to Section 162(m), we generally may not deduct for federal income tax purposes compensation paid to our Chief Executive Officer and our three most highly compensated employees (referred to in the Code as "covered employees") to the extent that any of these persons receive more than \$1.0 million in compensation in any single tax year. Where such compensation qualifies as "performance-based compensation" for purposes of Section 162(m), however, we may deduct this compensation for federal income tax purposes, even if it causes a covered employee's total compensation to exceed \$1.0 million in a single year. Accordingly, the Executive Incentive Plan was drafted to satisfy the requirements of Section 162(m) for "performance-based" compensation such that stock-based compensation and cash-based bonuses granted under the Executive Incentive Plan can be structured to be tax deductible when granted to our covered employees.

If the Executive Incentive Plan is not approved by our stockholders, it will not become effective, and we will lose any tax deductions that the Executive Incentive Plan could have otherwise provided.

Summary of the Executive Incentive Plan

The Executive Incentive Plan permits us to grant performance-based awards that are payable in either cash or shares of our common stock. The Executive Incentive Plan is divided into two sections with the first section describing the terms for performance-based awards payable in cash and the second section describing the terms for performance-based awards payable in shares of our common stock. The material provisions of the Executive Incentive Plan are described below, and the description of each is qualified in its entirety by reference to the text of the Executive Incentive Plan, as proposed to be adopted at our 2016 Annual Meeting and which is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement. Unless otherwise indicated, capitalized terms used in this proposal shall have the meanings set forth in the text of the Executive Incentive Plan.

Purpose of the Executive Incentive Plan

The purpose of the Executive Incentive Plan is to motivate and reward our eligible employees for their service by providing incentive compensation in the form of cash bonuses and equity compensation.

Because of the fact-based nature of the performance-based compensation exception under Section 162(m) and the limited availability of binding guidance thereunder, we cannot guarantee that the awards under the Executive Incentive Plan to covered employees will qualify for exemption under Section 162(m). However, our intention and the intention of our compensation committee is to administer the Executive Incentive Plan in compliance with Section 162(m) with respect to covered employees or participants who may become covered employees. If any provision of the Executive Incentive Plan does not comply with the requirements of Section 162(m), then such provision will be construed or deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to such requirements. With respect to all other participants, the Executive Incentive Plan may be operated without regard to the constraints of Section 162(m). Participants in the Executive Incentive Plan

Individuals eligible for the Executive Incentive Plan awards are our officers and key employees, which include our covered employees and executive officers. Each executive officer has an interest in this proposal. The number of key employees who will participate in the Executive Incentive Plan and the amount of Executive Incentive Plan awards are not presently determinable.

Administration of the Executive Incentive Plan

The Executive Incentive Plan will be administered by our compensation committee or another committee designated by the Board, which will have the authority to interpret the Executive Incentive Plan, to establish performance targets and to establish the amounts of awards payable under the Executive Incentive Plan. Other than with respect to awards to participants who are covered employees or executive officers, our compensation committee may delegate, in whole or in part, its administrative authority under the Executive Incentive Plan.

New Plan Benefits

Future awards under the Executive Incentive Plan to covered employees, executive officers, and key employees are not determinable in advance because these grants are subject to the discretion of our compensation committee. We have therefore not included a table that reflects such awards.

Material Terms Unique to Cash Bonus Awards under the Executive Incentive Plan

Performance Factors and Maximum Cash Bonus

The payment to each participant is based on an individual bonus target for the performance period set by our compensation committee in writing and is directly related to the satisfaction of the applicable performance goal(s) set by our compensation committee for such performance period. A performance goal is an objective formula or standard utilizing one or more of the following factors and any objectively verifiable adjustment(s) thereto permitted and pre-established by our compensation committee in accordance with Section 162(m): (i) net earnings (either before or after one or more of the following: (A) interest, (B) taxes, (C) depreciation, (D) amortization and (E) stock compensation expense), (ii) gross or net sales or revenue, (iii) net income (either before or after taxes), (iv) operating earnings or profit, (v) cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow and free cash flow), (vi) return on assets, (vii) return on capital, (viii) return on stockholders' equity, (ix) return on sales, (x) gross or net profit or operating margin, (xi) costs, (xii) funds from operations, (xiii) expenses, (xiv) working capital, (xv) earnings per share, (xvi) price per share of Common Stock, (xvii) implementation or completion of critical projects, (xviii) market share and (xix) the number of users of the Company's products and services, any of which may be measured either in absolute terms or as compared to any incremental increase or decrease or as compared to results of a peer group or to market performance indicators or indices. Awards issued to participants who are not subject to the limitations of Section 162(m) may take into account other factors (including subjective factors). The performance period(s) individual bonus target(s) and performance goal(s) will be adopted by our compensation committee in its sole discretion with respect to each performance period and, with respect to covered employees, must be adopted no later than the latest time permitted by the Code in order for cash bonus payments pursuant to the Executive Incentive Plan to be deductible under Section 162(m).

The actual amount of future bonus payments under the Executive Incentive Plan is not presently determinable. However, the Executive Incentive Plan provides that the maximum amount of any cash bonus that can be paid under the Executive Incentive Plan to any participant during any performance period is \$10,000,000. Further, our compensation committee, in its sole discretion, may reduce or eliminate the amount of a participant's bonus under the Executive Incentive Plan to an amount below the amount otherwise payable pursuant to the Executive Incentive Plan formula. With respect to Executive Incentive Plan awards to participants who are not subject to Section 162(m), our compensation committee may use its discretion to increase the amount otherwise payable under the Executive Incentive Plan award.

Payment of Awards

The payment of a cash bonus for a given performance period generally requires the participant to be actively employed by us (or on a qualified leave of absence) and in good standing with the Company as of the date the cash bonus is paid. Prior to the payment of any cash bonus under the Executive Incentive Plan to covered employees, our compensation committee must make a determination, certified in writing, that the conditions to payment for the applicable performance period have been satisfied. The payment of cash bonuses under the Executive Incentive Plan must be made in cash and occur within a reasonable period of time after the end of the applicable performance period but may occur sooner with respect to Executive Incentive Plan awards to participants who are not subject to the limitations of Section 162(m).

Term and Amendment of the Executive Incentive Plan

The Executive Incentive Plan has a term of five years from the date of approval by our stockholders, and may be terminated by our compensation committee at any prior time, provided that such termination will not affect the payment of any award accrued prior to the time of termination. Our compensation committee may amend or suspend, and reinstate, the Executive Incentive Plan at any time, provided that any such amendment or reinstatement shall be subject to stockholder approval if required by Section 162(m), or any other applicable laws, rules or regulations. Material Terms Unique to Equity Awards under the Executive Incentive Plan

Shares and Maximum Number of Equity Awards

Shares underlying equity awards will be issued from our 2011 Equity Incentive Award Plan (the "2011 Plan"). If an equity award expires or becomes unexercisable without having been exercised in full, or, with respect to performance units or performance shares, is forfeited to or repurchased by us due to failure to vest, the unpurchased shares (or for equity awards other than options the forfeited or repurchased shares) which were subject thereto will revert back to the 2011 Plan (unless the 2011 Plan has terminated). Shares used to pay the exercise price of an equity award or to satisfy the tax withholding obligations related to an equity award will revert back to the 2011 Plan.

Stock Option Limitations. The maximum number of shares that may be granted as an incentive stock option pursuant to the Executive Incentive Plan is 70,000,000. No participant will be eligible to receive a stock option covering more than 1,000,000 shares in any calendar year under the Executive Incentive Plan; provided, however, that in connection with a participant's initial service as an employee, during the calendar year in which such participant commences employment with the Company, the preceding limitation shall be doubled.

Performance Units/Performance Share Limitations. No participant will be eligible to receive performance units or performance shares having a grant date value (assuming maximum payout) greater than \$10,000,000 or covering more than 1,000,000 shares, whichever is greater, in any calendar year under the Executive Incentive Plan; provided, however, that in connection with a participant's initial service as an employee, during the calendar year in which such participant commences employment with the Company, the preceding limitations shall be doubled. Performance Factors.

A performance goal is an objective formula or standard utilizing one or more of the following factors and any objectively verifiable adjustment(s) thereto permitted and pre-established by our compensation committee in accordance with Section 162(m); (i) net earnings (either before or after one or more of the following; (A) interest, (B) taxes, (C) depreciation, (D) amortization and (E) stock compensation expense), (ii) gross or net sales or revenue, (iii) net income (either before or after taxes), (iv) operating earnings or profit, (v) cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow and free cash flow), (vi) return on assets, (vii) return on capital, (viii) return on stockholders' equity, (ix) return on sales, (x) gross or net profit or operating margin, (xi) costs, (xii) funds from operations, (xiii) expenses, (xiv) working capital, (xv) earnings per share, (xvi) price per share of Common Stock, (xvii) implementation or completion of critical projects, (xviii) market share and (xix) the number of users of the Company's products and services, any of which may be measured either in absolute terms or as compared to any incremental increase or decrease or as compared to results of a peer group or to market performance indicators or indices. Awards issued to participants who are not subject to the limitations of Section 162(m) may take into account other factors (including subjective factors). The performance period(s) individual bonus target(s) and performance goal(s) will be adopted by our compensation committee in its sole discretion with respect to each performance period and, with respect to covered employees, must be adopted no later than the latest time permitted by the Code in order for cash bonus payments pursuant to the Executive Incentive Plan to be deductible under Section 162(m). Transferability.

Generally, equity awards granted under the Executive Incentive Plan may not be transferred.

Amendment or Termination.

Our Board may at any time amend, alter, suspend or terminate the Executive Incentive Plan. No amendment, alteration, suspension or termination of the Executive Incentive Plan will impair the rights of any participant, unless mutually agreed otherwise between the participant and us, which agreement must be in writing and signed by the participant and us. Termination of the Executive Incentive Plan will not affect our compensation committee's ability to exercise the powers granted to it hereunder with respect to equity awards granted under the Executive Incentive Plan prior to the date of such termination.

Types of Equity Awards. Executive Incentive Plan authorizes the award of stock options, performance units and performance shares.

Nonstatutory Stock Options (NSOs). NSOs will provide for the right to purchase shares of our common stock at a specified price which may not be less than fair market value on the date of grant, and usually will become exercisable (at the discretion of the administrator) in one or more installments after the grant date, subject to the participant's continued employment or service with us and/or subject to the satisfaction of corporate performance targets and individual performance targets established by the administrator. NSOs may be granted for any term specified by the administrator that does not exceed ten years.

Incentive Stock Options (ISOs). ISOs will be designed in a manner intended to comply with the provisions of Section 422 of the Code and will be subject to specified restrictions contained in the Code. Among such restrictions, ISOs must have an exercise price of not less than the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date of grant, may only be granted to employees, and must not be exercisable after a period of ten years measured from the date of grant. In the case of an ISO granted to an individual who owns (or is deemed to own) at least 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of our capital stock, the 2011 Plan provides that the exercise price must be at least 110% of the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date of grant and the ISO must not be exercisable after a period of five years measured from the date of grant.

Performance Units/Performance Shares. Performance units and performance shares may be granted under the Executive Incentive Plan. Performance units and performance shares are equity awards that will result in a payment to a participant if performance goals established by our compensation committee are achieved. Our compensation committee will establish organizational or individual performance goals in its discretion, which, depending on the extent to which they are met, will determine the number and/or the value of performance units and performance shares to be paid out to participants. After the grant of a performance unit or performance share.

Change in Control. In the event of a change in control where the acquirer does not assume or replace equity awards granted, prior to the consummation of such transaction, equity awards issued under the Executive Incentive Plan will be subject to accelerated vesting such that 100% of such equity awards will become vested and exercisable or payable, as applicable. In addition, the administrator will also have complete discretion to structure one or more equity awards under the Executive Incentive Plan to provide that such equity awards will become vested and exercisable or payable on an accelerated basis in the event such equity awards are assumed or replaced with equivalent awards but the individual's service with us or the acquiring entity is subsequently terminated within a designated period following the change in control event. The administrator may also make appropriate adjustments to equity awards under the Executive Incentive Plan and is authorized to provide for the acceleration, cash-out, termination, assumption, substitution or conversion of such equity awards in the event of a change in control or certain other unusual or nonrecurring events or transactions.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following summary is intended only as a general guide to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of awards granted under the Executive Incentive Plan and does not attempt to describe all possible federal or other tax consequences based on particular circumstances.

Cash Bonuses. We will generally be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount of income recognized by the recipient of a performance bonus. With respect to covered employees, no deduction will be permitted if the bonus is not structured in compliance with Section 162(m).

Incentive Stock Options. An optionee who is granted an incentive stock option does not recognize taxable income at the time the option is granted or upon its exercise, although the exercise may subject the optionee to the alternative minimum tax. Upon a disposition of the shares more than two years after grant of the option and one year after exercise of the option, any gain or loss is treated as long-term capital gain or loss. If these holding periods are not satisfied, the optionee recognizes ordinary income at the time of disposition equal to the difference between the exercise price and the lower of (i) the fair market value of the shares at the date of the option exercise or (ii) the sale price of the shares. Any gain or loss recognized on such a premature disposition of the shares in excess of the amount treated as long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period.

Nonqualified Stock Options. An optionee does not recognize any taxable income at the time he or she is granted a nonqualified stock option. Upon exercise, the optionee recognizes taxable income generally measured by the excess of the then fair market value of the shares over the exercise price. Any taxable income recognized in connection with an option exercise by our employee is subject to tax withholding by us. We are generally entitled to a deduction in the same amount as the ordinary income recognized by the optionee. Upon a disposition of such shares by the optionee, any difference between the sale price and the optionee's exercise price, to the extent not recognized as taxable income as provided above, is treated as long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period. We will generally be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by a participant (including covered employees as stock options are considered to be performance-based compensation).

Performance Units/Performance Share. A participant generally will recognize no income upon the grant of a performance unit or performance share. Upon the settlement and/or payment of such equity awards, participants normally will recognize ordinary income in the year of receipt in an amount equal to the cash received and the fair market value of any shares received. Such ordinary income is subject to withholding taxes. Upon the sale of any shares received, any gain or loss, based on the difference between the sale price and the fair market value will be taxed as capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period. We generally should be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by the participant. With respect to covered employees, a tax deduction will be permitted if the equity award is structured to be granted in compliance with Section 162(m).

The foregoing is only a summary of the effect of federal income taxation upon award recipients and us with respect to the payment of cash bonuses, the grant and exercise of options, and the grant of stock awards under the Executive Incentive Plan. Reference should be made to the applicable provisions of the Code. In addition, the summary does not purport to be complete, and does not discuss the tax consequences of a participant's death or the provisions of the income tax laws of any municipality, state or foreign country in which the a participant may reside.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with voting your shares, please contact our proxy solicitor assisting us with the 2016 Annual Meeting, Alliance Advisors LLC, by telephone at (855) 973-0093. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE

INCENTIVE PLAN.

PROPOSAL NO. 5 STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL REGARDING PROXY ACCESS

Myra K. Young, 9295 Yorkship Court, Elk Grove, CA 95758, has notified us that her designee, John Chevedden, intends to introduce the following resolution at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Ms. Young has notified us that she has been a stockholder for over a year and intends to continue to be a stockholder until after the date of the 2016 Annual Meeting. Ms. Young has informed us that, as of December 23, 2015, she beneficially owned 100 shares of our common stock. In accordance with the proxy regulations, the following is the complete text of the proposal, which is reproduced as submitted to us other than minor formatting changes. All statements contained in a stockholder proposal and supporting statement are the sole responsibility of the proponent of that stockholder proposal. The Board does not support the adoption of this proposal and asks stockholders to consider the response following the proponent's statement. The Board recommends you vote AGAINST this proposal.

Proposal 5 - Shareholder Proxy Access

RESOLVED: Shareholders of Ellie Mae Inc. (the "Company") ask the board of directors (the "Board") to adopt, and present for shareholder approval, a "proxy access" bylaw as follows:

Require the Company to include in proxy materials prepared for a shareholder meeting at which directors are to be elected the name, Disclosure and Statement (as defined herein) of any person nominated for election to the board by a shareholder or an unrestricted number of shareholders forming a group (the "Nominator") that meets the criteria established below.

Allow shareholders to vote on such nominee on the Company's proxy card.

The number of shareholder-nominated candidates appearing in proxy materials should not exceed one quarter of the directors then serving or two, whichever is greater. This bylaw should supplement existing rights under Company bylaws, providing that a Nominator must:

- (a) have beneficially owned 3% or more of the Company's outstanding common stock, including recallable loaned stock, continuously for at least three years before submitting the nomination;
- (b) give the Company, within the time period identified in its bylaws, written notice of the information required by the bylaws and any Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules about (i) the nominee, including consent to being named in proxy materials and to serving as director if elected; and (ii) the Nominator, including proof it owns the required shares (the "Disclosure"); and
- (c) certify that (i) it will assume liability stemming from any legal or regulatory violation arising out of the Nominator's communications with the Company shareholders, including the Disclosure and Statement; (ii) it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations if it uses soliciting material other than the Company's proxy materials; and (iii) to the best of its knowledge, the required shares were acquired in the ordinary course of business, not to change or influence control at the Company.

The Nominator may submit with the Disclosure a statement not exceeding 500 words in support of the nominee (the "Statement"). The Board should adopt procedures for promptly resolving disputes over whether notice of a nomination was timely, whether the Disclosure and Statement satisfy the bylaw and applicable federal regulations, and the priority given to multiple nominations exceeding the one-quarter limit. No additional restrictions that do not apply to other board nominees should be placed on these nominations or re-nominations.

Supporting Statement: Long-term shareholders should have a meaningful voice in nominating directors. The SEC's universal proxy access Rule 14a-11 (https://www.sec.gov/rules/fina1/2010/33-9136.pdf) was vacated, in part due to

inadequate cost-benefit analysis. Proxy Access in the United States (http://www.cfapubs.org/doi/pdf/10.2469/ccb.v2014.n9.1), a cost-benefit analysis by CFA Institute, found proxy access would "benefit both the markets and corporate boardrooms, with little cost or disruption," raising US market capitalization by up to \$140.3 billion. Public Versus Private Provision of Governance (http://ssrn.com/abstract=2635695) found a 0.5 percent average increase in shareholder value for proxy access targeted firms.

Enhance shareholder value. Vote for Shareholder Proxy Access – Proposal 5

Your Board of Directors recommends that you vote AGAINST the proposal. The Board of Directors has considered this proposal and believes it is not in the best interests of Ellie Mae or its stockholders.

Ellie Mae is committed to acting in the best interests of our stockholders and committed to sound corporate governance policies and practices. The Board understands that proxy access is emerging as an important governance issue for many of our stockholders. If this proposal were adopted, proxy access would become a significant part of the Company's corporate governance framework. In determining to recommend that you vote against this proxy access proposal, the Board took into account the following considerations.

Proxy access is relatively new and has many variations. However, without considering what is appropriate for Ellie Mae, the proponent asks us to adopt substantially the same variation of proxy access that the proponent submitted to many other larger companies. Proxy access is a relatively new development and has many alternatives or variations. Each alternative or variation carries important consequences for the Company, and stockholders have expressed different views regarding the best approach. Nevertheless, the Board notes the proponent has submitted substantially identical versions of this proposal to many different companies in different industries. The proposal does not draw distinctions based on the size or nature of the targeted company. Your Board recommends that you vote against the proposal because we desire to evaluate the alternatives, consider the variation of proxy access that is most appropriate for our Company, and determine what is in the best interests of our stockholders.

We believe our nominating and corporate governance committee is best positioned to select director candidates who will promote the success of the Company and represent stockholder interests. Our nominating and corporate governance committee has a fiduciary obligation to all stockholders. The committee is charged with making recommendations regarding director candidates and overseeing the size and composition of the Board. Recommendations occur through applying the criteria set forth above under "Director Qualifications," screening new nominees, conducting a background investigation and determining director independence. In addition, stockholders may recommend our committee consider a candidate or nominate a candidate in accordance with our bylaws. However, the proxy access proposal allows a small group of stockholders to sidestep these important procedures that are designed to ensure that the individual Board members have the requisite skills, experience, independence and diversity to be an effective Board. Unfortunately, the proposal may result in director candidates who lack the attributes necessary for our Board and its committees to be effective. In addition, the proposal does not address any protections relating to independence of a stockholder nominee. The election of a non-independent director to the Board may cause the Company to be out of compliance with applicable NYSE or SEC independence requirements, which could ultimately harm stockholders.

Special interest groups or small stockholders may use proxy access to promote their personal interests and not the interests of all stockholders. Special interest groups or individuals with a small minority stake who desire to advance their personal agendas, and not necessarily the best interests of all stockholders, may nominate directors under proxy access. Further, these groups and individuals may use proxy access to threaten director election contests and seek concessions from the Company relating to their agenda without incurring the costs associated with a director election contest.

We believe the proxy access proposal presents corporate governance risks that may adversely affect the Company. The proxy access proposal would allow qualifying stockholders to nominate up to 25% of the current Board candidates. In addition, the proxy access proposal would allow an unrestricted number of stockholders to form a group to satisfy the ownership thresholds set forth in the proposal. We believe that this feature could have a disparately negative impact on a middle capitalization company, such as Ellie Mae, than it would have on larger market capitalization companies, which have predominantly adopted proxy access bylaws to date. We believe that allowing an unlimited number of stockholders to nominate such a significant percentage of the Board under certain circumstances could destabilize our Board, lead to increased director-turnover and disrupt the Company's positive trajectory. Also, destabilization and threat of director election contests could distract our Board and management from focusing on the Company's goals and limit the pool of qualified director candidates who are willing to serve on our Board. We believe these risks are detrimental to our sound corporate governance practices and the success of our Company.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with voting your shares, please contact our proxy solicitor assisting us with the 2016 Annual Meeting, Alliance Advisors LLC, by telephone at (855) 973-0093. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE AGAINST THE STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL REGARDING PROXY ACCESS.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table presents information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 31, 2016 by:

- each person known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding shares of common stock;
- each named executive officer as set forth in the summary compensation table below;
- each of our directors; and
- all current executive officers and directors as a group.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. Unless otherwise indicated below, to our knowledge, the persons named in the table have sole voting and sole investment power with respect to all shares beneficially owned, subject to community property laws where applicable. Shares of our common stock (i) subject to options that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2016 and (ii) subject to restricted stock units that vest within 60 days of March 31, 2016, are deemed to be outstanding and to be beneficially owned by the person holding the options or restricted stock units, as applicable, for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of that person, but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Percentage ownership of our common stock in the table below is based on 29,971,612 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding on March 31, 2016. Except as set forth below, the address of each of the individuals and entities named below is c/o Ellie Mae, Inc., 4420 Rosewood Drive, Suite 500, Pleasanton, California 94588.

Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned (1)

Name of Beneficial Owner	Common Stock	Options Exercisable Within 60 Days	Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class
5% Stockholders:		•		
PRIMECAP Management Company (2)	3,884,550	_	3,884,550	13.0%
Sylebra Capital Management (3)	2,579,205		2,579,205	8.6%
The Vanguard Group (4)	1,981,734		1,981,734	6.6%
BlackRock Inc. (5)	1,652,792	_	1,652,792	5.5%
Named Executive Officers and Directors:				
Sigmund Anderman (6)	339,837	159,017	498,854	1.7%
Jonathan Corr (7)	157,488	33,273	190,761	*
Edgar Luce (8)	50,308	58,753	109,061	*
Peter Hirsch	_	_	_	*
Cathleen Schreiner Gates	15,591	39,332	54,923	*
Joseph Tyrrell	19,698	13,878	33,576	*
Karen Blasing		3,167	3,167	*
Carl Buccellato (9)	27,365	76,499	103,864	*
Craig Davis (10)	58,332	81,499	139,831	*
A. Barr Dolan	1,000	63,833	64,833	*
Robert J. Levin (11)	6,340	75,833	82,173	*
Marina Levinson	_	3,167	3,167	*
Frank Schultz		7,167	7,167	*
Jeb S. Spencer	1,005	40,684	41,689	*
Rajat Taneja	_	3,167	3,167	*
All 17 directors and executive officers as a group (12)	871,295	738,744	1,610,039	5.2 %

^{*}Represents beneficial ownership of less than one percent of the outstanding shares of common stock.

Represents shares of common stock held, common stock held in escrow for 2012 Performance Shares, 2013

Performance Shares, 2014 Performance Shares and 2015 Performance Awards, options that are exercisable within 60 days of Moreh 21, 2016, and restricted stock units that year within 60 days of Moreh 21, 2016, by such

^{(1) 60} days of March 31, 2016, and restricted stock units that vest within 60 days of March 31, 2016, by such individuals. Includes shares held in the beneficial owner's name or jointly with others, or in the name of a bank, nominee or trustee for the beneficial owner's account. Reported numbers do not include options that vest more than 60 days after March 31, 2016.

⁽²⁾ Based on information set forth in an Amendment No. 4 to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 12, 2016. The address of PRIMECAP Management Company is 225 South Lake Ave., #400, Pasadena, California 91101.

⁽³⁾ Based on information set forth in an Amendment No. 1 to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC