

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC

Form 8-K

November 21, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):

November 20, 2012

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

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0-20288
(Commission File Number)

91-1422237
IRS Employer Identification No.

1301 A Street

Tacoma, WA 98402

(Address of principal executive offices) (zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (253) 305-1900

(Former Name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligations of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act of (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act of (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers

Kent Roberts, age 61, the Executive Vice President and Director of Human Resources of Columbia Banking System, Inc. (the Company) and its wholly owned subsidiary, Columbia State Bank, has advised the Company that he will retire effective June 30, 2013. Melanie Dressel, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, stated Kent has been a significant contributor to the growth and success of the Company. His leadership, experience and presence will be greatly missed. All of us at Columbia wish Kent the best in his well-earned retirement. The Company's search for Mr. Robert's successor is underway.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: November 21, 2012

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.

By: /s/ Melanie J. Dressel
 Melanie J. Dressel

President and Chief Executive Officer