



CATHAY GENERAL
BANCORP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP
DECLARES \$0.18 PER SHARE DIVIDEND**

LOS ANGELES, May 19, 2016: Cathay General Bancorp (NASDAQ: CATY), the holding company for Cathay Bank, announced today that its Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of eighteen cents per common share, payable on June 13, 2016, to stockholders of record at the close of business on June 1, 2016.

ABOUT CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

Cathay General Bancorp is the holding company for Cathay Bank, a California state-chartered bank. Founded in 1962, Cathay Bank offers a wide range of financial services. Cathay Bank currently operates 33 branches in California, 12 branches in New York State, three in the Chicago, Illinois area, three in Washington State, two in Texas, one in Maryland, one in Massachusetts, one in Nevada, one in New Jersey, one in Hong Kong, and a representative office in Taipei and in Shanghai. Cathay Bank's website is found at <http://www.cathaybank.com/>. Cathay General Bancorp's website is found at <http://www.cathaygeneralbancorp.com/>.