OPTIMIZING EXECUTIVE BENEFIT PLANS TO RECRUIT/RETAIN/REWARD

Prepared For:



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY BANKING NETWORK

July 2025

Jeffrey P. Peterson, CLU, ChFC 600 Montgomery St, Suite 1600 • San Francisco, CA 94111 • jpeterson@ebscomp.com • Local (415) 733-6540

 Phillip A. Pickett

 2031 11th Avenue South • Birmingham, AL 35205 • ppickett@ebscomp.com • Local (205) 803-7341



What is a Nonqualified Benefit Plan?



Nonqualified Benefit Plan Basics

- An agreement between the Bank and executive or director. It's an exchange of promises from which both sides benefit.
- Helps the Bank retain and reward those employees who make the most significant contributions to the business.
- The employer promises to pay a retirement benefit, life insurance protection or some combination of benefits. In return, the key employee must meet performance criteria or remain with the Bank for a specified period of time.

Advantages to the Bank

- Provides a competitive edge in recruiting and retaining top executive talent
- Promotes the dedication and commitment of most valued people
- Provides the flexibility of who will participate, and the level and types of benefits provided

Advantages to Key Employee

- Provides a rewarding retirement benefit
- Allows for delayed taxation of income
- Provides ability to design life insurance benefits to be income-tax-free



Innovative Solutions Outstanding Service

Overview of Qualified vs Nonqualified Benefit Plans







Popular Nonqualified Plans



Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP)

A SERP provides key executives with a cash payment for a period of years after retirement or at a specific point in time. The payment is designed to allow the executive to retire with a targeted amount of his or her final salary amount.

Target Age: Over Age 45 Plan Focus: Retention Plan Duration: Retirement

Endorsement Method Split-Dollar Plan

A Split-Dollar Plan provides for sharing of life insurance policy death benefit between the Bank and key employee's named beneficiary. The proceeds are income tax-free to the recipient.

Target Age: Any Insured Officer Plan Focus: Retention Plan Duration: In-Service or Post-Employment

Nonqualified Defined Contribution (NQDC) Plan

A NQDC Plan provides key employees with a deferred cash incentive to accomplish personal and corporate goals. It is designed to complement existing annual incentive compensation but to be paid on a deferred basis. Plans can also help younger management employees that often have higher current cash needs compared to those employees closer to retirement.

Target Age: Under Age 45 or Officers within 5 Years of Retirement Plan Focus: Performance Plan Duration: Short-Term, Mid-Term or Long-Term; Depends on Vesting.



4

Sample Plan Designs



Annual Contributions are \$100,000 per year until the Participant retires. The actual amount of Annual Contributions will be determined by the Bank and can vary from year-to-year.

Long Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) **Total Benefit** Participant **Total Benefit Years Benefit** Retirement **Payments** Participant **Payments** After Tax to Be Paid Age Age 65 \$2,842,000 Executive Example \$4,736,337 45 10

Assumptions:

Retirement Age: 65 Each Annual Contribution Plus Interest Vest 20% per Year Over 5 Years Marginal Tax Rate - Employee: 40% Interest Rate: 5.5% (Actual rate can vary from year-to-year)

Annual Contributions are \$100,000 per year until the Participant retires. The actual amount of Annual Contributions will be determined by the Bank and can vary from year-to-year.



Innovative Solutions Outstanding Service CALIFORNIA COMMUNIT BANKING NETWORK

Mid Term Incentive Plan (MTIP) - Projection of Benefits

(1)	(2)	(3)	(2) + (3) (4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY Banking Network
Age	Annual Notional Account Contribution	Annual Interest Earned at 5.5%	Annual Account Contribution/ Plan Expense	Total Vested/ Non-Vested Account Balance	Annual Benefit Payment	Non-Vested Account Balance	
45	\$100,000	\$5,500	\$105,500	\$105,500	\$0	\$0	•
46	100,000	11,303	111,303	216,803	0	105,500	
47	100,000	17,424	117,424	334,227	0	216,803	
48	100,000	23,882	123,882	458,109	0	334,227	
49	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	0	458,109	
50	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
51	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
52	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
53	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
54	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
55	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
56	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
57	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
58	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
59	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
60	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
61	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
62	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
63	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
64	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	130,696	458,109	
65	0	0	0	0	588,805	0	
	\$2,000,000	\$549,245	\$2,549,245		\$2,549,245		



(CCB)

Long Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) - Projection of Benefits

ССВ
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY
BANKING NETWORK

(1)	(2)	(3)	(2) + (3) (4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	CALIFORNIA Banking
Age	Annual Notional Account Contribution	Annual Interest Earned at 5.5%	Annual Account Contribution/ Plan Expense	Total Vested/ Non-Vested Account Balance	Annual Benefit Payment	Non-Vested Account Balance	
45	\$100,000	\$5,500	\$105,500	\$105,500	\$0	\$84,400	-
46	100,000	11,303	111,303	216,803	0	151,182	
47	100,000	17,424	117,424	334,227	0	198,151	
48	100,000	23,882	123,882	458,109	0	222,928	
49	100,000	30,696	130,696	588,805	0	222,928	
50	100,000	37,884	137,884	726,689	0	222,928	
51	100,000	45,468	145,468	872,157	0	222,928	
52	100,000	53,469	153,469	1,025,626	0	222,928	
53	100,000	61,909	161,909	1,187,535	0	222,928	
54	100,000	70,814	170,814	1,358,350	0	222,928	
55	100,000	80,209	180,209	1,538,559	0	222,928	
56	100,000	90,121	190,121	1,728,680	0	222,928	
57	100,000	100,577	200,577	1,929,257	0	222,928	
58	100,000	111,609	211,609	2,140,866	0	222,928	
59	100,000	123,248	223,248	2,364,114	0	222,928	
60	100,000	135,526	235,526	2,599,640	0	222,928	
61	100,000	148,480	248,480	2,848,120	0	222,928	
62	100,000	162,147	262,147	3,110,267	0	222,928	
63	100,000	176,565	276,565	3,386,832	0	222,928	
64	100,000	191,776	291,776	3,678,608	0	0	
65	0	182,091	182,091	3,492,838	367,861	0	
66	0	170,761	170,761	3,275,506	388,093	0	
67	0	157,634	157,634	3,023,701	409,438	0	
68	0	142,546	142,546	2,734,290	431,957	0	
69	0	125,322	125,322	2,403,896	455,715	0	
70	0	105,771	105,771	2,028,889	480,779	0	
71	0	83,692	83,692	1,605,358	507,222	0	
72	0	58,863	58,863	1,129,102	535,119	0	
73	0	31,050	31,050	595,601	564,551	0	
74	0	0	0	0	595,601	0	=
Total	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,736,337	\$ 4,736,337		\$ 4,736,337		



Innovative Solutions Outstanding Service

Outstandin

7

Key Employee Retention



Type of Compensation	Typical Period of Vesting / Retention		
Base Salary	1 Year		
Bonus	1 Year		
Equity	3 - 5 Years		
Non-Equity Incentive Compensation	3 Years		
Nonqualified Benefits	5 – 20+ Years		



Board of Directors Common Questions

- Which officers should be included?
- Are the benefits reasonable and how are the benefits earned by the key employee?
- ▶ How specifically can the plan help retain the key employee?
- What will the cost be to the Bank?
- ▶ How will these plans benefit the Bank?
- Does the plan encourage loyalty?
- What happens in the event of a Bank merger, disability, death?





CALIFORNIA COMMUNIT Banking Network

Nonqualified Benefit Plan Process



Needs Analysis and Discussion of Plan Designs

Detailed Plan Cost/Benefit Analysis

Board/Committee Involvement

Plan Design Approval

Plan Implementation



10

Benefits of BOLI



Competitive Yields with tax-efficient interest compounding

No mark to market accounting on the Bank's balance sheet

Clear regulatory and tax guidelines

Yields will adjust and reflect future interest rates (effective duration 5 - 11 years)

Death benefits will increase the total yield and proceeds are received income tax free

Very low yield volatility provides stability and structure to the Bank's balance sheet



Current BOLI Yields



		Guardian Life	MassMutual	New York Life	Northwestern Mutual	Protective Life
	Initial Premium	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	Initial Death Benefit	\$2,015,926	\$2,020,000	\$2,173,164	\$2,033,844	\$2,106,071
	Current Viold (Veer 1)	0.049/	0.40%	0.049/	0.00%	0.50%
	Current Yield (Year 1)	6.34%	6.16%	6.31%	6.80%	6.53%
<u>a</u>	Current Yield (Year 5)	6.26%	6.12%	6.27%	6.18%	6.45%
Annual	Current Yield (Year 10)	6.18%	6.08%	6.21%	5.89%	6.35%
A	Current Yield (Year 15)	6.06%	5.98%	6.17%	6.00%	6.24%
	Current Yield (Year 20)	5.93%	5.83%	6.06%	6.06%	6.09%
D	Cash Value IRR - 5 Years	6.29%	6.12%	6.29%	6.48%	6.47%
punodu	Cash Value IRR - 10 Years	6.25%	6.11%	6.27%	6.20%	6.42%
Comp	Cash Value IRR - 15 Years	6.21%	6.08%	6.24%	6.12%	6.36%
	Cash Value IRR - 20 Years	6.15%	6.03%	6.21%	6.10%	6.31%
	Death Benefit IRR - Year 25	7.88%	7.79%	8.07%	7.86%	8.30%

*Assumes 29% Marginal Tax Rate

Earnings are based on average age 45 year old male, assumes June 2025 rates and charges. Projected values are not estimates or guarantees of future results. Assumes no deaths. See Basic Illustration for guaranteed elements and other important information.



Speaker Bios





Phillip A. Pickett, CPA (license inactive) Birmingham, Alabama

Phil has over 20 years of experience working with companies across the country to develop and optimize their Bank Owned Life Insurance (BOLI) and Corporate Owned Life Insurance (COLI) programs. Phil also assists companies with the design and implementation of Nonqualified Executive Benefit Plans and Deferred Compensation Plans to help companies attract, retain, and reward their talent. Phil is a CPA (License Inactive) and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Million Dollar Round Table (Top of the Table). He is also an Ambassador of Finseca (formerly the Association for Advanced Life Underwriting (AALU)) and a former member of AALU's Nonqualified Plans Committee. Phil was a tax manager for an international accounting firm prior to joining EBS in 2003. During his ten years in public accounting, Phil specialized in tax consulting and implementation services for a variety of corporate clients, executives, and high-wealth individuals. Phil serves on the board of Mitchell's Place, a facility that provides early learning and therapeutic services for children affected by autism. He is also on the Development Committee for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama (RMHCA).

Phil received his M.B.A. from the University of Alabama and his B.S. in Accounting from Florida State University.



Jeffrey P. Peterson, CLU, ChFC San Francisco, California

Jeff has spent over 30 years in executive benefit consulting for private and public sector corporations as well as consulting with their top executives. He has worked with several industries but has focused on the banking, technology and service industries, and his practice emphasizes all areas of executive benefit planning and informal funding. As the Managing Partner in the San Francisco office, Jeff oversees client services for the entire western region. He specializes in helping firms to attract, retain and reward their leadership teams. He is a frequent national speaker on the topic of Nonqualified Plans. Jeff is a past president of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and the Society of Financial Service Professionals in San Francisco. He is a member of the Million Dollar Round Table, Top of the Table, and a multiple recipient of the highly coveted National Quality Award. He is also a member and ambassador of Finseca and Treasurer on the Board of the Taboe Maritime Foundation. Jeff received his Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of the Pacific and holds two advanced degrees from the American College.



Innovative Solutions Outstanding Service

EBS Competitive Advantages

- EBS developed an industry-leading service platform, Iron Key Insurance Services (Iron Key), to ensure consistent, reliable reporting and ongoing service
- Iron Key is owned by Northwestern Mutual and provides comprehensive BOLI reporting services
- EBS Partners have selling agreements with top mutual carriers:
 - Guardian Life
 - MassMutual
 - Midland National
 - New York Life
 - Northwestern Mutual
 - Protective Life
 - Securian (Minnesota Life)
- Through Iron Key, EBS clients have access to a secure private client information portal
- Depending on the client's needs and preferences, EBS works with the following service firms:
 - Iron Key Insurance Services
 - Newport
 - The Pangburn Group



• EBS upholds a commitment to meeting client needs which has resulted in outstanding retention and satisfaction

- Endorsed vendor with multiple banking associations
 - Alabama Bankers Association (ABA)
 - Georgia Bankers Association (GBA)
 - Community Bankers Association of Ohio (CBAO)
 - Community Bankers of Michigan (CBM)
 - California Community Banking Network (CCB)

CALIFORNIA COMMUNIT BANKING NETWORK



Disclaimer & Non-Disclosure



DISCLAIMER

EBS Strategies, LLC does not engage in the practice of law or accounting. Anything contained herein dealing with your legal or accounting matters should be discussed with your legal and accounting advisors. EBS is a marketing, consulting and service firm that specializes in the placement of Bank Owned Life Insurance (BOLI) and Corporate Owned Life Insurance (COLI) programs. These programs utilize life insurance to finance existing employee benefits, as well as to informally fund new or existing non-qualified executive benefit plans. The members of EBS, who are financial representatives, provide clients with access to the leading insurance carriers in the BOLI and COLI markets.

The material in this report contains insurance company illustrations that reflect dividend, interest, expense and mortality assumptions, which are not guaranteed. We do not warrant the performance of any particular insurance carrier or product.

Jeffrey P. Peterson, CLU, ChFC, is also a licensed insurance agent of The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company ("Northwestern Mutual") and may also act as an appointed agent for certain other insurance companies, license # 0673578 (California). Additionally, Jeffrey P. Peterson is a registered representative of Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC ("NMIS"), a registered broker-dealer and member firm of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. When Jeffrey P. Peterson interacts with a client, he is doing so as an executive benefit consultant of EBS when engaged in plan design and analysis; as a licensed insurance agent of Northwestern Mutual or appointed agent for other insurance companies when offering non-variable insurance products; and/or as a registered representative of NMIS when selling variable insurance or investment products.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND NONDISCLOSURE

The material contained in this report is proprietary information developed exclusively by EBS Strategies, LLC. We ask that you not share the information contained in this report with any other outside parties without the express written permission of EBS. By accepting this proposal for review, you are agreeing to abide by these terms. We appreciate your help in keeping our unique plan designs confidential.

