

WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION  
Form S-8  
September 24, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2009

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

**FORM S-8  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933  
WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)**

**Nevada**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

**88-0365922**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**2700 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**89102**  
(Zip Code)

**Western Alliance Bancorporation 2005 Stock Incentive Plan**  
(Full Title of the Plan)

**Robert Sarver  
President, Chief Executive Officer  
Western Alliance Bancorporation  
2700 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102  
(702) 248-4200**  
(Name, Address and Telephone  
Number, including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

**With a copy to:  
Steven D. Pidgeon  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
2525 East Camelback Road  
Suite 1000  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016  
(480) 606-5100**

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

Large Accelerated  
Filer

Accelerated  
Filer

Non-accelerated filer   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting

Smaller reporting  
company

company)

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

| <b>Title of Each Class of Securities</b> | <b>Amount<br/>To Be<br/>Registered<br/>(1)</b> | <b>Proposed<br/>Maximum<br/>Offering<br/>Price Per<br/>Share (2)</b> | <b>Proposed<br/>Maximum<br/>Aggregate<br/>Offering Price<br/>(2)</b> | <b>Amount<br/>of<br/>Registration<br/>Fee</b> |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Common stock, \$0.0001 par value         | 2,000,000                                      | \$ 6.66  | \$ 13,320,000  | \$ 744  |

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the *Securities Act*), this registration statement covers any additional securities to be offered or issued from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

(2) Estimated solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Securities Act Rules 457(c) and 457(h). The proposed maximum offering price per share, proposed maximum aggregate offering price and the amount of the registration fee are based on the average of the high and low

prices of  
Western  
Alliance  
Bancorporation's  
shares of  
common stock  
on  
September 21,  
2009, as reported  
by the New York  
Stock Exchange.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Western Alliance Bancorporation ( *Western Alliance* ) has prepared this registration statement in accordance with the requirements of Form S-8 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "*Securities Act* ), to register an additional 2,000,000 shares of Western Alliance s common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (the *Common Stock* ), which are authorized for issuance under the Western Alliance Bancorporation 2005 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended (the *Incentive Plan* ). Western Alliance filed a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-127032) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the *Commission* ) on July 29, 2005 registering 3,172,394 shares of Common Stock that were authorized for issuance under the Incentive Plan. Western Alliance filed a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-145548) with the Commission on August 17, 2007 registering an additional 1,774,265 shares of Common Stock that were authorized for issuance under the Incentive Plan. Pursuant to General Instruction E of Form S-8, this registration statement is being filed to register an additional 2,000,000 shares of Common Stock that are authorized for issuance under the Incentive Plan. Pursuant to such Instruction E, the contents of the Registration Statements on Form S-8 (File Nos. 333-127032 and 333-145548) are incorporated herein by reference.

**PART II**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

**Item 8. Exhibits.**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 4.1                   | Specimen common stock certificate of Western Alliance Bancorporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Western Alliance Bancorporation s Registration Statement on Form S-1, File No. 333-124406, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 27, 2005, as amended).   |
| 4.2                   | Form of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, stock certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Western Alliance Bancorporation s Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 25, 2008).   |
| 4.3                   | Form of Warrant to purchase shares of Western Alliance Bancorporation common stock, dated December 12, 2003, together with a schedule of warrant holders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to Western Alliance Bancorporation s Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005). |
| 4.4                   | Warrant, dated November 21, 2008, by and between Western Alliance Bancorporation and the United States Department of the Treasury (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Western Alliance s Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 25, 2008).   |
| 5.1                   | Opinion of Randall S. Theisen, Esq. regarding the validity of the common stock registered hereby.   |
| 23.1                  | Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP.   |
| 23.2                  | Consent of Randall S. Theisen, Esq. (included in Exhibit 5.1).  |
| 24.1                  | Power of Attorney (included on signature page hereto).  |
| 99.1                  | Western Alliance Bancorporation 2005 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended (incorporated by reference to Appendix A of Western Alliance Bancorporation s definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 17, 2009).  |

- 99.2 Form of BankWest Nevada Corporation Incentive Stock Option Plan Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Western Alliance Bancorporation's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005).

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 99.3                  | Form of Western Alliance Bancorporation Incentive Stock Option Plan Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Western Alliance Bancorporation's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005).                                      |
| 99.4                  | Form of Western Alliance Bancorporation 2002 Stock Option Plan Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Western Alliance Bancorporation's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005).   |
| 99.5                  | Form of Western Alliance Bancorporation 2002 Stock Option Plan Agreement (with double trigger acceleration clause) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Western Alliance Bancorporation's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2005). |

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Las Vegas, State of Nevada, on September 24, 2009.

**WESTERN ALLIANCE  
BANCORPORATION**

By: /s/ Robert Sarver  
Robert Sarver  
Chairman, President and Chief  
Executive Officer (Principal Executive  
Officer)

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below appoints Robert Sarver or Dale Gibbons, jointly and severally, each in his own capacity, as true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, with full power of substitution in such person's name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to sign any amendments to this Registration Statement on Form S-8, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact, or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this registration statement and the Power of Attorney has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| <b>Name and Signature</b>                      | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Date</b>        |
|--|--|--------------------|
| By: /s/ Robert Sarver<br>Robert Sarver         | Chairman of the Board; President<br>and Chief Executive Officer<br>(Principal Executive Officer) | September 24, 2009 |
| By: /s/ Dale Gibbons<br>Dale Gibbons           | Executive Vice President and<br>Chief Financial Officer (Principal<br>Financial Officer)         | September 24, 2009 |
| By: /s/ Tom Edington<br>Tom Edington           | Senior Vice President and<br>Controller (Principal Accounting<br>Officer)                        | September 24, 2009 |
| By: /s/ John P. Sande III<br>John P. Sande III | Director   | September 24, 2009 |
| By: /s/ Bruce Beach<br>Bruce Beach             | Director   | September 24, 2009 |
| By: /s/ William S. Boyd                        | Director   | September 24, 2009 |

William S. Boyd

By: /s/ Steve Hilton Director September 24, 2009

Steve Hilton

By: /s/ Marianne Boyd Johnson Director September 24, 2009

Marianne Boyd Johnson

By: /s/ Cary Mack Director September 24, 2009

Cary Mack

By: /s/ Arthur Marshall Director September 24, 2009

Arthur Marshall



| <b>Name and Signature</b>                            | <b>Title</b> | <b>Date</b>        |
|--|--------------|--------------------|
| By: /s/ Todd Marshall<br>Todd Marshall               | Director     | September 24, 2009 |
| By:<br>M. Nafees Nagy, M.D.                          | Director     |                    |
| By: /s/ James Nave, D.V.M.<br>James Nave, D.V.M.     | Director     | September 24, 2009 |
| By: /s/ Donald Snyder<br>Donald Snyder               | Director     | September 24, 2009 |
| By: /s/ Kenneth A. Vecchione<br>Kenneth A. Vecchione | Director     | September 24, 2009 |

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

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-5-