

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

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant [X]

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

THE RUBICON PROJECT, 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] Fee not 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):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction :

(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 for 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:



**The Rubicon Project, Inc.
12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90094**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON MAY 15, 2019**

The annual meeting of stockholders of The Rubicon Project, Inc. (the "company") will be held at the company's headquarters, located at 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094, on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 12:00 noon local time, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. Election of two Class II directors to serve for the ensuing three years.
2. Ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the company's independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year.
3. Transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

Stockholders of record at the close of business on March 18, 2019 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Feldman".

Jonathan Feldman
Secretary

Los Angeles, California
April 5, 2019

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON, IN ORDER TO ENSURE REPRESENTATION OF YOUR SHARES PLEASE VOTE AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE AS INSTRUCTED IN THESE MATERIALS OR IN ANY VOTING INSTRUCTION FORM YOU RECEIVED OR, IF THIS PROXY STATEMENT WAS MAILED TO YOU, BY COMPLETING, DATING AND SIGNING THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AND MAILING IT IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. NO POSTAGE NEED BE AFFIXED IF THE PROXY CARD IS MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Important Notice Regarding the Internet Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholders Meeting to be Held on May 15, 2019:

The company's 2019 Proxy Statement and Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 are available at <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/18899>.



**The Rubicon Project, Inc.
12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90094**

**PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON MAY 15, 2019**

This proxy statement is provided in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the board of directors (the “board of directors” or “board”) of The Rubicon Project, Inc. (the “company” or “Rubicon Project”) for use at the Rubicon Project annual meeting of stockholders to be held at the company’s principal executive offices, located at 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094, on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 12:00 noon local time, and at any postponement or adjournment thereof (the “Annual Meeting”). You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting, and we request that you vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. You can vote your shares without attending the Annual Meeting by appointing a proxy to vote your shares as explained below. Please note that if your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee and you decide to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting in person, your vote in person at the Annual Meeting will not be effective unless you present a legal proxy, issued in your name from your broker, bank or other nominee.

In accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials, we are furnishing proxy materials to our stockholders on the Internet and mailing printed copies of the proxy materials only to a limited number of our stockholders. If you are a stockholder of record and you have received a printed copy of these proxy materials by mail, you may simply complete, sign and return your proxy card by mail or follow the instructions on your proxy card to submit your proxy via the Internet or telephone. If you hold your shares in street name, which means your shares are held of record by a broker, bank, or other nominee, you will receive instructions from your broker, bank, or other nominee on how to vote your shares. Stockholders receiving a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by mail will generally not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials unless they specifically request a printed copy in accordance with the instructions included in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials provides instructions as to how to (i) access and review the information contained in the proxy materials, (ii) submit voting instructions via the Internet or telephone or by mail, and (iii) request a printed copy of the proxy materials. We intend to begin distributing our proxy materials to stockholders via paper copy mailing and the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials on or about April 5, 2019.

Each properly submitted proxy will be voted in accordance with the stockholder’s instructions contained therein. If no choice is specified, properly executed proxies that have not been revoked will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the board of directors:

- FOR election of each of the Class II directors of the company designated herein as the board’s nominees (see “Proposal 1 – Election of Directors” beginning at page 5 of this proxy statement); and
- FOR ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year (see “Proposal 2 – Ratification of the Selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” beginning at page 16 of this proxy statement).

As to any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting, the persons acting as proxies will vote, or otherwise act, in accordance with their judgment on such matter. Our board of directors does not presently know of any other business that may come before the Annual Meeting.

The company will pay all costs of proxy solicitation. In addition to solicitations by mail, our directors, officers and employees, without additional remuneration, may solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile and personal interviews, and we reserve the right to retain outside agencies for the purpose of soliciting proxies. Brokers, custodians, and fiduciaries will be requested to forward proxy soliciting materials to the owners of stock held in their names and, as required by law, we will reimburse them for their out-of-pocket expenses in this regard.

Voting and Quorum Requirements

On March 18, 2019, the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting, there were outstanding and entitled to vote an aggregate of 51,804,341 shares of our common stock, constituting all of our voting stock. Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share. The holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock outstanding on the record date and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, present in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting and any adjournments and postponements thereof. Shares of our common stock represented in person or by proxy (including broker non-votes and shares that abstain or do not vote with respect to one or more of the matters presented for stockholder approval) will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting.

You may vote FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN with respect to each director nominee (Proposal 1) and ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year (Proposal 2). This is an uncontested election and our bylaws provide that a director nominee will be elected in an uncontested election only if the number of votes cast FOR the nominee's election exceeds the number of votes cast AGAINST the nominee's election, assuming a quorum is present. For the election of directors, shares of our common stock voted ABSTAIN and broker non-votes are not counted as votes cast and therefore will not be counted in determining the outcome of a director nominee's election, but will count for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists. The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter, assuming a quorum is present, is required to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year. For the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, abstentions are considered shares present and entitled to vote on such matter and thus will have the same effect as votes AGAINST the matter.

Deadline for Voting

If you are a stockholder of record, your proxy must be received by telephone or the Internet by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on May 14, 2019 in order for your shares to be voted at the Annual Meeting. If you are a stockholder of record and you received a printed set of proxy materials, you also have the option of completing, signing, dating and returning the proxy card enclosed with the proxy materials before the Annual Meeting in order for your shares to be voted at the meeting. If you are a beneficial owner of shares of our common stock, please comply with the deadlines included in the voting instructions provided by the bank, broker or other nominee that holds your shares.

Changing or Revoking Your Vote

If you are a stockholder of record you may revoke a previously submitted proxy by delivery of written revocation or a subsequently dated proxy to our Secretary by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 14, 2019 or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. If your shares are held through a bank or broker (i.e., in street name), you must contact your broker, bank or other nominee to find out how to change or revoke your voting instructions. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not cause your previously executed proxy to be revoked unless you vote in person or specifically request such revocation. Each stockholder may appoint only one proxy holder or representative to attend the meeting on his or her behalf.

Broker Discretionary Voting

If you hold your shares in street name through a bank, broker, or other nominee, you should follow the instructions that you receive from your bank, broker, or other nominee regarding steps to take to instruct your bank, broker, or other nominee how to vote your shares. If you do not provide voting instructions, your bank, broker, or other nominee is permitted to use its own discretion and vote your shares only on routine matters. However, for

non-routine matters, your bank, broker, or other nominee does not have discretionary authority to vote your shares. The election of directors is considered a non-routine matter, so brokers are not permitted to vote your shares with respect to that matter without receiving voting instructions from you. The ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year is considered a routine matter. If your broker exercises its discretion to vote on routine matters at the Annual Meeting, your shares will be voted on the routine matters in the manner directed by your broker, but your shares will constitute “broker non-votes” on each non-routine item to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Householding of Proxy Materials

Some banks, brokers, and other nominee record holders may participate in the practice of “householding” proxy materials. This means that only one copy of our proxy materials or the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, as applicable, may have been sent to multiple stockholders in your household unless such stockholders have notified us of their desire to receive multiple copies of our proxy materials. We will promptly deliver a separate Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and, if applicable, a separate proxy statement and Annual Report, to you if you contact us by mail at The Rubicon Project, Inc., 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094, Attention: Corporate Secretary or by telephone at (310) 207-0272. If you want to receive separate copies of our proxy materials in the future, or if you are receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one copy for your household, you should contact your bank, broker, or other nominee record holder, or you may contact us at the above address or phone number.

Explanatory Note

We are an “emerging growth company,” as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act (the “JOBS Act”). As an emerging growth company, we provide in this Proxy Statement the scaled disclosure permitted under the JOBS Act. In addition, as an emerging growth company, we are not required to conduct votes seeking approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers or the frequency with which such votes must be conducted.

Under the JOBS Act, we will remain an “emerging growth company” until the earliest of: (i) the last day of the fiscal year during which we have total annual gross revenue of \$1.07 billion or more; (ii) the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the closing of our initial public offering on April 7, 2014; (iii) the date on which we have, during the previous three-year period, issued more than \$1 billion in non-convertible debt; and (iv) the date on which we are deemed to be a “large accelerated filer” under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”) (we will qualify as a large accelerated filer as of the first day of the first fiscal year after we have more than \$700 million in outstanding common equity held by our non-affiliates and which is measured each year on the last day of our immediately preceding second fiscal quarter).

PROPOSAL 1 — ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our board of directors is classified into three classes (designated Class I, Class II and Class III), with members of each class holding office for staggered three-year terms. There are currently two Class I directors, whose terms expire at the 2021 Annual Meeting; three Class II directors, whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting; and three Class III directors, whose terms expire at the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders, in all cases subject to the election and qualification of their respective successors and to their earlier death, resignation or removal. Sumant Mandal, a Class II director, will not stand for re-election and his term will expire at the Annual Meeting. If the two Class II director nominees are elected to the board of directors at the Annual Meeting, we will have one vacancy on our board of directors immediately following the Annual Meeting. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the nominees named.

Our process for nominating director candidates is described below under the caption “Director Candidate Nominating Procedures.” Our board of directors nominated incumbents Messrs. Barrett and Spillane to stand for election as Class II directors at the Annual Meeting. Each nominee has indicated his willingness to serve if elected, but if he is unable or unwilling for good cause to serve, proxies may be voted for a substitute nominee designated by our board of directors or the board of directors may reduce the size of the board. Each nominee, if elected, will hold office until the 2022 annual meeting of stockholders, subject to the election and qualification of his respective successor and to his earlier death, resignation or removal.

The table below lists the seven directors expected to continue in service following the Annual Meeting and their committee assignments. A summary of the background for each nominee and continuing director is set forth after the table. These background summaries include the specific experience, qualifications, attributes, and/or skills that, together with the general characteristics and qualifications described below under the caption “Director Candidate Nominating Procedures,” contributed to our board’s conclusion that the person should serve as a director of the company.

Name	Age ⁽¹⁾	Position	Committee Assignments			Member Since
			Audit	Compensation	Nominating & Governance	
Frank Addante	42	Chairman				April 2007
Michael G. Barrett	56	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director				March 2017
Lewis W. Coleman	77	Director	X	X		December 2015
Robert J. Frankenberg	70	Lead Director	X	X	X	April 2014
Sumant Mandal ⁽²⁾	49	Director		Chair		May 2007
Robert F. Spillane	68	Director		X	Chair	April 2014
Lisa L. Troe	56	Director	Chair		X	February 2014

(1) As of April 1, 2018

(2) Mr. Mandal is not standing for re-election at the Annual Meeting.

Director Nominees – Class II

Michael G. Barrett has been a member of our board of directors and has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since March 2017. Mr. Barrett has served as the President of Ichabod Farm Ventures LLC, an investment company that he founded, since December 2012. From January 2014 to December 2015, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Millennial Media, Inc. From July 2012 to December 2012, Mr. Barrett served as Global Chief Revenue Officer and Executive Vice President at Yahoo! Inc. Prior to Yahoo!, from January 2012 to July 2012, Mr. Barrett served as Director at Google Inc., where he led the integration efforts following Google’s acquisition of AdMeld Inc., a global supply side platform solution for premium publishers. Mr. Barrett previously served as Chief Executive Officer at AdMeld from November 2008 to December 2011.

Mr. Barrett also held senior positions at AOL, Fox Interactive Media and Disney Online. Mr. Barrett serves on the board of directors of Media Math, a demand-side platform. Mr. Barrett brings to the board extensive experience in digital advertising and advertising technology, as well as significant executive management expertise.

Robert F. Spillane joined our board of directors in connection with our initial public offering in April 2014. From 1998 to 2017, Mr. Spillane was a Managing Principal at DigaComm, L.L.C., a private investment firm that leads early-stage venture capital transactions, primarily involving companies in technology and digital media. Mr. Spillane was formerly a Principal and President and CEO of the investment group DM Holdings, Inc., which was formed in 1991 to acquire Donnelley Marketing, Inc. from The Dun and Bradstreet Corporation. Donnelley Marketing was a leading direct marketing and information services company. Mr. Spillane served as President and CEO, and on the board of directors of Donnelley Marketing, Inc. Prior to joining DM Holdings, Mr. Spillane was the Executive Vice President of Diamandis Communications, Inc., then a leading consumer magazine publisher, formed in 1987 in a leveraged buyout of CBS Magazines from CBS Inc., and also served as a member of the Diamandis board of directors from 1987 to 1990. Prior to Diamandis, Mr. Spillane held various executive positions with CBS, Inc., including Senior Vice President Group Publisher, Vice President of Circulation, Vice President General Manager of the CBS Special Interest Magazine Group, and Vice President Sales and Marketing of Fawcett Books. His ten-year career at CBS culminated in service from 1985 to 1987 as Senior Vice President, Publishing of CBS Magazines. In that capacity, he was directly responsible for 10 magazines. From 1972 to 1977, Mr. Spillane held various positions with Chesebrough Ponds, Inc. Mr. Spillane also served on the board of directors of TVSM, Inc., a private media company, from 1992-1998. Mr. Spillane brings to the board expertise in the publishing and advertising businesses, as well as significant experience with operations and mergers and acquisitions.

Incumbent Directors – Class I

Frank Addante is our founder and has been a member and Chairman of our board of directors since 2007 and served as our Chief Executive Officer from April 2007 to March 2017 and our Chief Product Architect from November 2014 to February 2016. From March 2017 to June 2018, he was employed by the company, reporting to and assisting the Chief Executive Officer, including by providing analysis and advice in the areas of strategy, innovation, and advertising technology market conditions and dynamics. In 2002, Mr. Addante founded the email infrastructure provider StrongMail Systems, Inc. From January 1998 to November 2000, Mr. Addante was CTO and Technology Founder of L90, an Internet advertising company, where he pioneered one of the Internet's first ad serving platforms, adMonitor. Mr. Addante started his Internet career with the creation of Starting Point, a search engine. Mr. Addante brings to our board of directors thorough knowledge of our company and extensive experience in advertising automation and related systems engineering, innovation, and executive leadership.

Robert J. Frankenberg joined our board of directors in connection with our initial public offering in April 2014. Mr. Frankenberg has owned NetVentures, a management consulting and investment firm focused on the high-tech industry, since 1996. He served on the board of directors of public company Nuance Communications from March 2000 to June 2018. He previously served as a member of the boards of directors of public companies Polycom from October 2013 to September 2016, Wave Systems from December 2011 to June 2015 and National Semiconductor until October 2011. He also serves on the boards of private companies Veracity Networks, SQLStream, and Sylvan Source, as well as the Sundance Institute board. Prior to its sale in 2004, Mr. Frankenberg chaired Kinzan, a leading provider of Internet services platforms. Mr. Frankenberg was the chairman, president, and CEO of Encanto Networks from June 1997 to July 2000 when the company's major business was sold to Avaya. Encanto was a leading provider of eBusiness software and services to small business. From April 1994 to August 1996, Mr. Frankenberg was the Chairman/CEO of Novell, a networking software company. Prior to Novell, Mr. Frankenberg was the Vice President & Group General Manager of Hewlett-Packard's Personal Information Products Group, responsible for HP's personal computer, server, networking, office software, calculator, and consumer product lines. Mr. Frankenberg joined Hewlett-Packard in 1969 as a manufacturing technician, later became a design engineer, software designer, project manager, engineering and marketing executive, and general manager. He became a corporate vice president in 1990 and general manager of the Personal Information Products Group in 1991. He served in the US Air Force from 1965 to 1969. Mr. Frankenberg previously served on various other boards, including for America OnLine (AOL), and holds several computer design patents. He brings to the board a deep knowledge of software, computer networks and systems, business operations, the technology industry, and public company governance and board service.

Incumbent Directors – Class III

Lewis W. Coleman has been a member of our board of directors since December 2015. He is the retired Vice Chairman of DreamWorks Animation, a position he held from July 2014 to January 2015. Prior to that, he served in various executive-level positions with DreamWorks since December 2005, including as President from December 2005 to August 2014, Chief Financial Officer from February 2007 to September 2015, and acting Chief Accounting Officer from June to September 2014. Prior to joining DreamWorks, Mr. Coleman was the President of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation from its founding in November 2000 to December 2004. Prior to that, Mr. Coleman was a Senior Managing Director at Montgomery Securities and then President and Chief Operating Officer of its successor, Banc of America Securities, where he also served as Chairman from 1998 to 2000. Before then, Mr. Coleman spent ten years at Bank of America where he served as Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer. He spent the previous 21 years at Wells Fargo Bank, where his positions included Chief Credit Officer and Chairman of the Credit Policy Committee, and at Bank of California. Mr. Coleman currently serves on the board of directors of Immune Design, a publicly traded clinical-stage immunotherapy company focused on oncology, as well as DCI, LLC, a private fund management company, and Vista Capital Advisors (formerly eBond Advisors), a private financial technology company. Mr. Coleman's previous board experience includes Chiron Corporation, Regal Entertainment, Bank of America, DreamWorks Animation and Northrop Grumman, where he was the Lead Independent Director. Mr. Coleman brings to the board an extensive background in consumer media and technology, and successful track record of expanding businesses into emerging markets, as well as significant executive level and public company board experience.

Lisa L. Troe has been a member of our board of directors since February 2014. She is a Senior Managing Director and co-founder of Athena Advisors LLC, a business advisory firm, a position she has held since January 2014. From October 2005 to December 2013, Ms. Troe was a Senior Managing Director in the forensic and litigation consulting practice at FTI Consulting, Inc., a global business advisory firm. From January 1995 to October 2005, Ms. Troe served on the staff of the Division of Enforcement of the SEC's Pacific regional office, including seven years as an enforcement branch chief and six years as regional chief enforcement accountant. Ms. Troe serves as a director and audit committee chair of TheraCann International Benchmark Corporation. Her career includes accounting positions in public and private companies and with a Big Four public accounting firm. Ms. Troe is a credentialed National Association of Corporate Directors Governance Fellow and member of the National Association of Corporate Directors, a CPA, and member of the American Institute of CPAs. In 2017, Ms. Troe completed the National Association of Corporate Directors Cyber-Risk Oversight Program and received a CERT Certificate in Cybersecurity Oversight from the Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Troe brings to the board an extensive background in public company governance and oversight, enterprise risk and crisis management, and public company accounting and financial reporting, as well as a diverse experience with many industries allowing her to bring additional perspective to our board.

Vote Required and Recommendation of our Board of Directors

Our bylaws provide that, in an uncontested election, each director nominee must receive a majority of votes cast in order to be elected to our board of directors. A "majority of votes cast" means the number of shares voted FOR a director nominee exceeds the number of shares voted AGAINST that director nominee. Each of our director nominees currently serves on the board. If a nominee who currently serves as a director is not re-elected, Delaware law provides that the director would continue to serve on the board as a "holdover director." Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that each incumbent director nominee who is not re-elected is expected to submit to the board his or her resignation from our board of directors and all committees thereof. The nominating & governance committee, composed entirely of independent directors, will evaluate and make a recommendation to the board with respect to any submitted resignation and the board must decide whether to accept or reject the resignation, or to take other action, within 90 days following certification of the stockholder vote. No director may participate in the nominating & governance committee or the board's consideration of his or her own resignation.

The board of directors recommends a vote FOR the election of each of Messrs. Barrett and Spillane as Class II directors.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Director Independence

Rubicon Project is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, which requires that a majority of a listed company's board of directors be independent. In addition, the rules of the New York Stock Exchange require that, subject to specified exceptions, each member of a listed company's audit, compensation and nominating/corporate governance committees be independent. Under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, a director will only qualify as an "independent director" if the board of directors affirmatively determines that the director has no material relationship with the company (either directly or as a partner, stockholder, or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Company).

Our board of directors has undertaken a review of the independence of each director and considered whether each director has any material relationships with us. As a result of this review, our board of directors has determined that Ms. Troe and Messrs. Coleman, Frankenberg, Mandal, and Spillane are independent directors as defined under the applicable rules of the New York Stock Exchange for purposes of service on the board.

Board Leadership Structure

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that our board of directors will determine in its discretion from time to time whether the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer should be combined or separated. With the appointment of Mr. Barrett as Chief Executive Officer in March 2017, our board of directors determined to separate these roles and retained Mr. Addante as non-executive Chairman. Because our board believes that strong, independent board leadership is a critical aspect of effective corporate governance, and to promote open discussion among our non-management directors, our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that, when the Chairman is a non-independent director, the independent directors will designate an independent director to act as Lead Director.

The responsibilities of the Lead Director include: (1) presiding at executive sessions of the board in place of the Chairman, as well as at meetings of the board at which the Chairman is not present and meetings of independent or non-management directors; (2) approving information sent to the board; (3) approving the agenda and schedule for board meetings at which the Lead Director will preside, as well as other board meetings if the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman are the same person; (4) serving as liaison between the independent directors and the Chairman and/or Chief Executive Officer on sensitive matters; (5) being available for consultation and communication with major stockholders upon request; and (6) calling executive sessions of our board and independent or non-management directors. The independent directors have selected Robert J. Frankenberg to serve as Lead Director because of his significant experience as both an executive officer and director and his familiarity with technology companies and public company governance and board operation.

Board and Committee Meetings

In 2018, our board of directors met seven times, the audit committee met seven times, the compensation committee met seven times, and the nominating & governance committee met four times. The independent directors met in executive sessions without management in connection with four of the board meetings, five of the audit committee meetings, and three of the compensation committee meetings. During 2018, each director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of board meetings and meetings held by all committees on which the director then served with the exception of Mr. Coleman, who attended five of the seven (71%) audit committee meetings, and Mr. Mandal, who attended five of the seven (71%) compensation committee meetings.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines call for us to schedule annual meetings of stockholders to coincide when possible with one of the four regular quarterly board meetings. Directors are expected to attend the annual stockholders' meeting absent unusual circumstances. A copy of the Corporate Governance Guidelines is posted on the "Corporate Governance" section of our Investor Relations website at <http://investor.rubiconproject.com>. All of our directors attended the 2018 annual meeting.

Board Committees

Our board of directors has established three standing committees – audit, compensation, and nominating & governance – each of which operates under a written charter that has been approved by our board. Committee membership is indicated in the table above on page 5. A current copy of each committee’s charter is posted on the “Corporate Governance” section of our Investor Relations website at <http://investor.rubiconproject.com>. Each committee reviews and evaluates, at least annually, the performance of the committee and its members and the adequacy of its charter.

Audit Committee

The audit committee is responsible for, among other things, providing assistance to the board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities regarding the integrity of our financial statements, our compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, the integrity of our financial reporting processes, including our systems of internal accounting and financial controls, the performance of our internal audit function and our independent registered public accounting firm, and our financial policy matters. The audit committee approves the services performed by our independent registered public accounting firm and reviews their reports regarding our accounting practices and systems of internal control over financial reporting, as applicable. The audit committee also oversees the audit efforts and confirms the independence of our independent registered public accounting firm. Our board of directors has determined that each member of our audit committee satisfies SEC requirements for independence and the independence and financial literacy requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, and that each qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert,” as defined in the SEC rules.

Compensation Committee

The compensation committee is responsible for, among other things, overseeing our overall compensation structure, policies and programs, and assessing whether our compensation structure establishes appropriate incentives for officers and employees. The compensation committee also reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives relevant to compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers, evaluates the performance of these officers in light of those goals and objectives, sets the compensation of these officers based on such evaluations and reviews, and, except with respect to his own compensation, based on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, determines any employment-related agreements and any proposed severance arrangements or change in control or similar agreements with these officers. The compensation committee also administers the issuance of equity awards under our stock plans and is permitted to delegate such responsibility to our Chief Executive Officer with respect to employees other than executive officers. The compensation committee has delegated to our Chief Executive Officer authority to approve equity awards, subject to the following limitations: (1) no awards may be granted by the Chief Executive Officer to himself or herself, or to members of the board or any executive officer; (2) no individual may be granted more than 100,000 shares in the aggregate in any rolling 365-day period; (3) no more than 250,000 shares may be granted in the aggregate to all recipients in any calendar quarter, or 1,000,000 shares in the aggregate in any calendar year; and (4) awards must be made on standard terms (e.g., four-year vesting) pursuant to the company’s standard award documents. The compensation committee is also responsible for the preparation of a report on executive compensation, when and as required by the SEC rules, to be included in our Annual Report and annual proxy statement. Our board of directors has determined that each member of our compensation committee satisfies the requirements for independence under the rules and regulations of both the New York Stock Exchange and the SEC, and is a non-employee director for purposes of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act.

The compensation committee has the authority, in its sole discretion, to retain or obtain the advice of such consultants, outside counsel and other advisers as it determines appropriate to assist it in the full performance of its functions, at the Company’s expense. Since December 2014, the compensation committee has engaged Semler Brossy Consulting Group, LLC (“Semler Brossy”) annually to act as its independent compensation consultant. Semler Brossy provides analysis and advice regarding our executive compensation practices, including with respect to the amount and form of executive and non-employee director compensation. A representative of Semler Brossy attends meetings at which the compensation committee undertakes significant review of, and/or action with respect to, executive officer or non-employee director compensation. Semler Brossy also consults regularly with the chair of the compensation committee. Semler Brossy reports directly and solely to the compensation committee and

performs compensation consulting services for the compensation committee at its request. Semler Brossy is not engaged to perform services directly for our management. The compensation committee has concluded that no conflict of interest exists with respect to its engagement of Semler Brossy nor are there other factors that would adversely impact Semler Brossy's independence in advising the compensation committee under applicable SEC and New York Stock Exchange rules. The compensation committee reached this conclusion after considering the following six factors, as well as Semler Brossy's views regarding its independence and other information the compensation committee deemed relevant: (i) the provision of other services to us by Semler Brossy; (ii) the amount of fees received from us by Semler Brossy, as a percentage of the total revenue of Semler Brossy; (iii) the policies and procedures of Semler Brossy that are designed to prevent conflicts of interest; (iv) any business or personal relationship of the Semler Brossy consultants with a member of the compensation committee; (v) any of our stock owned by the Semler Brossy consultants; and (vi) any business or personal relationship of the Semler Brossy consultants or Semler Brossy with any of our executive officers.

Nominating & Governance Committee

The nominating & governance committee is responsible for, among other things, developing and recommending to the board of directors criteria for identifying and evaluating candidates for directorships and making recommendations to the board of directors regarding candidates for election or reelection to the board of directors at each annual stockholders' meeting. In addition, the nominating & governance committee is responsible for overseeing our Corporate Governance Guidelines and reporting and making recommendations to the board of directors concerning corporate governance matters. The nominating & governance committee also is responsible for making recommendations to the board of directors concerning the structure, composition and function of the board of directors and its committees. Our board of directors has determined that each member of our nominating & governance committee satisfies the requirements for independence under the rules and regulations of the New York Stock Exchange. The nominating & governance committee has engaged a search firm to assist the committee in the process of identifying and evaluating qualified potential director candidates to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Mandal.

Director Candidate Nominating Procedures

The process followed by the nominating & governance committee to identify and evaluate director candidates includes requests for recommendations (which may include through retained third-party search firms, as well as less formal methods such as personal contacts), committee meetings from time to time to evaluate biographical information and material relating to potential candidates, and interviews of candidates by board members. In identifying and evaluating director candidates and determining whether to nominate any particular candidate, the nominating & governance committee considers the director candidates' specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills, together with the following general characteristics and qualifications, which are set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines:

- highest personal and professional ethics, integrity, and values;
- independent, creative, and disciplined thought processes;
- practical wisdom and mature judgment;
- broad training and experience at the policy-making or strategic level;
- a record of achievement and expertise that is useful to the company and complementary to the background and experience of other board members, so that a useful balance of members on the board can be achieved and maintained;
- willingness to devote the required amount of time to carrying out the duties and responsibilities of board membership;
- commitment to serve on the board over a period of several years to develop knowledge about the company;
- unless management directors, independence under relevant standards; and
- diversity of occupational and personal backgrounds among the members of the board.

While the nominating & governance committee does not have a formal policy regarding board diversity, it is a factor that the nominating & governance committee takes into account in identifying director nominees. The nominating & governance committee believes that diversity is important because different points of view and varied board member backgrounds and practical experience can contribute to the quality of the board's operations and decision-making, and assesses board diversity, among other things, in its periodic assessment of the composition, operation, and effectiveness of the board.

The nominating & governance committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria, but does believe that the backgrounds and qualifications of our directors, considered as a group, should provide a composite mix of experience, knowledge and abilities that will facilitate our board's fulfillment of its responsibilities.

Stockholders may recommend individuals to the nominating & governance committee for consideration as potential director candidates and inclusion in our proxy statement for the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders by submitting their names, together with appropriate biographical information and background materials. Such information should be sent to the Nominating & Governance Committee, c/o Corporate Secretary, The Rubicon Project, Inc., 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094. Assuming that appropriate biographical and background material has been provided on a timely basis, the nominating & governance committee will evaluate stockholder-recommended candidates by following the same process, and applying the same criteria, as it follows for other candidates. If our board determines to nominate a stockholder-recommended candidate, then his or her name will be included in our proxy materials, including our proxy card, for the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders.

Board Evaluation Process

Our board of directors and each of our standing committees conducts an annual self-evaluation to assess its performance. Each director participates in these evaluations and our Chairman or Lead Director and the Chair of the nominating & Governance committee then review and discuss the results with the full board. In addition, as part of the process of considering directors for re-election to the board, individual directors are annually informally evaluated by the nominating & governance committee on the basis of their attendance at meetings and their preparedness, participation, candor and overall contribution to the board, as well as other criteria that the nominating & governance committee deems appropriate.

Communicating with the Independent Directors

Stockholders and other interested parties who wish to communicate on any topic with our board, or with a specific director or directors, including the Lead Director or the independent directors as a group, may address such communications to our Board of Directors c/o Corporate Secretary, The Rubicon Project, Inc., 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094.

Our board of directors will give appropriate attention to written communications that are submitted by stockholders, and will respond if and as appropriate. The Lead Director, or the Chair of the nominating & governance committee, with the assistance of our General Counsel and Chief Financial Officer, is primarily responsible for reviewing communications from stockholders and for providing copies or summaries to the other directors as considered appropriate. In accordance with the procedures outlined in Rubicon Project's Corporate Governance Guidelines, communications (or summaries thereof) that relate to corporate governance, long-term corporate strategy, and other important substantive matters should be forwarded to the other directors, unless there is a compelling reason not to forward such communications. In general, the director who reviews such communications may decline to forward communications that relate to ordinary business affairs or personal grievances, or are repetitive or duplicative, unless there is a compelling reason to forward such communications.

Board's Role in Risk Oversight

Our board of directors exercises oversight of risk management consistent with its duty to direct the management of the business and affairs of the company. The audit committee, pursuant to its charter, is responsible for reviewing company practices with respect to risk assessment and risk management. The audit committee works directly with

members of senior management and the company's internal audit staff to fulfill this responsibility and reports as appropriate to our board. Our board's other committees also participate in risk oversight by considering risk aspects of matters within the scope of their responsibilities.

Oversight of risk is also effected by our board as a whole in various ways.

- The board reviews the structure and operation of various departments and functions of the company. In those reviews, the board discusses with management risks affecting those departments and functions and management's approaches to mitigating those risks.
- The board reviews and approves each year's operating plan and budget, and these reviews cover risks that could affect the plan and measures to cope with those risks.
- In its review and approval of our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, the board reviews and discusses with management the company's business and related risks, including as described in the "Business," "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis" sections of the document. The audit committee conducts a similar process quarterly in connection with the preparation of Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q.
- When the board reviews particular transactions and initiatives that require board approval as a legal matter, or that otherwise merit board involvement, the board generally includes related risk analysis and mitigation plans among the matters addressed with management.
- The board or audit committee meet quarterly with our internal or external cybersecurity resources to review the efficacy of our cybersecurity risk initiatives and related policies and procedures. Lisa Troe, our audit committee chair, also has a certificate in cybersecurity oversight from the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

The day-to-day identification and management of risk is the responsibility of the company's management. As the market environment, industry practices, regulatory requirements, and the company's business evolve, it is expected that management and our board will respond with appropriate adaptations to risk management and oversight.

Our board believes that the process it has established to administer the board's risk oversight function would be effective under a variety of leadership frameworks and, therefore, does not have a material effect on our choice of the board's leadership structure described above under "Board Leadership Structure."

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

Our board of directors has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to each of our directors, officers and employees. The full text of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is posted on the "Corporate Governance" section of our Investor Relations website at <http://investor.rubiconproject.com>. We intend to post any amendment to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and any waivers of the Code for directors and executive officers, on the same website to the extent required by applicable law.

Policy Against Hedging and Pledging

We recognize that hedging against losses in company shares may disturb the alignment between stockholders and employees that our equity awards are intended to build. Accordingly, we have incorporated prohibitions on various hedging activities within our Insider Trading Policy, which applies to directors, officers and other employees who we have designated as insiders. The policy prohibits all transactions that are designed to hedge or offset any decrease in the market value of our securities, including prepaid variable forward contracts, equity swaps, futures, collars, exchange funds, options, puts, and calls and purchases or sales of puts or calls for speculative purposes.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Messrs. Coleman, Frankenberg, Mandal, and Spillane served on our compensation committee during the last completed fiscal year. None of the members of our compensation committee is or has at any time been an officer or employee of Rubicon Project. There are no interlocking relationships (and there were no such interlocking relationships during 2018) between our board of directors, executive officers or our compensation committee and the board of directors, executive officers or the compensation committee of any other company.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Each non-employee director is compensated for service on our board through a combination of annual cash retainers and equity awards. For purposes of our director compensation program, a non-employee director is a member of the board who is not, and has not been within the previous 180 days, either an employee of the company or any of its subsidiaries or a consultant performing material services to the company or any of its subsidiaries. In order to align the interests of non-employee directors and stockholders, equity awards constitute a majority of total director compensation.

Directors are reimbursed for travel, food, lodging and other expenses directly related to their activities as directors, such as attendance at board or committee meetings. Directors are also entitled to the protection provided by their indemnification agreements and the indemnification provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, and they receive coverage under a director and officer insurance policy that we maintain.

Annual Cash Fees

Our non-employee directors receive annual retainer fees as described in the table below for board and committee service. The fees are paid in four equal quarterly advance installments and prorated for any partial year of board service.

Position	Retainer (\$)
Board Member	30,000
Audit Committee Chair	20,000
Compensation Committee Chair	12,500
Nominating & Governance Committee Chair	7,500
Audit Committee Member	10,000
Compensation Committee Member	5,000
Nominating & Governance Committee Member	3,500
Lead Director	15,000

Equity Awards

Prior to changes to our non-employee director compensation program approved by the board in October 2018 that is effective for 2019 compensation, equity compensation for non-employee directors consisted of (i) an initial equity award with a calculated value of \$450,000 for each newly-elected or appointed non-employee director, and (ii) annual awards with a calculated value of \$225,000. In October 2018, the board reduced the initial award to have a calculated value of \$375,000 and the annual award to a value of \$125,000 to bring the compensation back to medial levels in connection with making changes to the equity mix to eliminate the stock option component and remove the price floor, as further described below.

The initial equity award is granted on the date of appointment to the Board or attainment of non-employee director status, unless the board or compensation committee specify another issuance date. Annual equity awards are issued on the date of each annual meeting or the date of attainment of non-employee director status. If no intervening annual meeting has been held, annual equity awards will be granted on a date specified by the compensation committee that is at least 30 calendar days after the first anniversary of the prior year's annual meeting. The first annual award for non-employee directors who join the board at any time other than the date of an annual meeting is subject to proration for the partial year of service ending on the date of the next annual meeting.

Prior to the October 2018 amendments, each equity award consisted of stock options for a number of shares determined by dividing half of the calculated value of the award by the fair value of a single option on the grant date as determined for financial accounting purposes, and restricted stock units covering a number of shares determined by dividing half of the calculated value of the award by the closing price of a share of our common stock on the grant date. Stock options were granted with a per share exercise price equal to the closing price of a share of our common stock on the grant date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the closing price of our common stock was less than \$12.00 on the grant date, then for stock options, \$12.00 was used as the fair value of one share of common stock in the Black Scholes calculation used to determine the number of stock options to be granted,

and for restricted stock units, \$12.00 was used as the closing price of a share of our common stock in calculating the number of restricted stock units to be covered by the award. With the October 2018 changes to the director compensation program, equity awards for directors will consist solely of restricted stock units covering a number of shares determined by dividing the calculated value of the award by the closing price of share of our common stock on the grant date; the \$12.00 price floor was eliminated.

Initial equity awards vest, subject to continued board service, in three equal annual increments, on the first, second, and third anniversaries of the date of commencement of board service or attainment of non-employee director status or, if earlier, upon (but effective immediately prior to) the occurrence of a change in control of the company. Annual equity awards vest, subject to continued board service, on the first anniversary of the date of grant (or, if no intervening annual meeting has been held, annual equity awards will vest on the second anniversary of the prior year's annual meeting) or, if earlier, upon the occurrence of either (1) a change in control of the company (effective immediately prior thereto) or (2) the first regular annual meeting occurring in the year immediately following the year in which such annual equity awards were granted. In addition, if a non-employee director ceases board service for any reason other than removal for cause before vesting in full of equity awards, then the director's awards vest with respect to a pro-rata portion of the underlying shares (up to but not exceeding the number of unvested shares remaining subject to such awards) determined based upon the period of board service. Vesting of equity awards will cease, and unvested equity awards will lapse, upon a recipient's removal for cause from board service.

Director Equity Retention Guidelines

Under equity retention guidelines implemented by the board in April 2016, each director is required to accumulate within five years from the later of the date the guidelines were implemented and the date of commencement of service for a new director, and thereafter to retain for the duration of board service, an amount of equity equal to five times the director's base board cash compensation. Equity that counts toward the ownership requirement includes: (1) shares owned outright by the director or beneficially owned by the director by virtue of being held by a member of the director's immediate family members residing in the same household or in a trust for the benefit of the director or his or her immediate family residing in the same household; (2) shares held in qualified plans or IRAs; (3) vested shares (or vested restricted stock units) deemed to be held in non-qualified plans; (4) the in-the-money portion of vested stock options (but not unvested stock options); and (5) unvested time-based restricted shares (or restricted stock units). Until the minimum level of company equity is achieved, a director is prohibited from selling or otherwise transferring beneficial ownership of more than one-half of: (a) the vested after-tax shares of our common stock obtained as a result of the vesting of any restricted stock or restricted stock unit award made after implementation of the equity retention guidelines; or (b) the shares of our common stock subject to the vested portion of any stock option award made after implementation of the equity retention guidelines, net of any shares surrendered or sold to cover exercise price and/or income tax resulting from the exercise.

2018 Director Compensation Table

The following table sets forth all compensation provided to our directors for 2018. The compensation for Mr. Barrett, our President and Chief Executive Officer, is described in the "Executive Compensation" section below. Mr. Barrett did not receive any compensation for his services as a director in 2018.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (1)(\$)	Stock Awards (2)(3)(\$)	Option Awards (2)(4)(\$)	Total (\$)
Frank Addante	287,212 ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	287,212
Lewis W. Coleman	58,680	27,783	18,463	104,926
Robert J. Frankenberg	77,180	27,783	18,463	123,426
Sumant Mandal ⁽⁶⁾	62,200	27,783	18,463	108,446
Robert F. Spillane	56,180	27,783	18,463	102,426
Lisa L. Troe	67,180	27,783	18,463	113,426

- (1) Unless otherwise noted, consists of annual board retainer and fees for service as a committee chair, committee member, or Lead Director, as the case may be and any special committee fees earned during 2018. See the narrative disclosure above for a description of such fees.
- (2) In accordance with the rules of the SEC, the amounts shown for the stock awards and option awards are the aggregate grant date fair value computed in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718, “Compensation – Stock Compensation” (“ASC 718”) for awards granted to the non-employee directors in 2018. The company’s equity awards valuation approach and related assumptions are described in Note 2 “Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – Stock-Based Compensation” and Note 13 “Stock-Based Compensation” to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 filed with the SEC on February 27, 2019. The reported amounts do not necessarily reflect the value that may be realized by the director with respect to the awards, which will depend on future changes in stock value and may be more or less than the amount shown.
- (3) Stock awards consist of an annual award of 7,292 restricted stock units issued in August 2018 to each non-employee director, with an aggregate grant date fair market value as described in footnote 2 of \$27,783. As of December 31, 2018, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock covered by unvested stock awards held by each of our non-employee directors was as follows:

Frank Addante	167,461
Lewis W. Coleman	7,292
Robert J. Frankenberg	7,292
Sumant Mandal	7,292
Robert F. Spillane	7,292
Lisa L. Troe	7,292

- (4) Option awards include an annual award of options for 9,429 shares with an exercise price of \$3.81 per share issued in August 2018 to each non-employee director, with an aggregate grant date fair market value as described in footnote 2 of \$18,463. As of December 31, 2018, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock covered by stock options held by each of our non-employee directors was as follows:

Frank Addante	183,464
Lewis W. Coleman	65,633
Robert J. Frankenberg	86,500
Sumant Mandal	86,500
Robert F. Spillane	86,500
Lisa L. Troe	86,500

- (5) Mr. Addante did not receive compensation for his services as a director in 2018. The compensation listed consists solely of employment compensation and cashout of his accrued vacation at end of his employment in June 2018. Beginning in 2019, Mr. Addante will begin receiving compensation as a non-employee director.
- (6) Mr. Mandal’s equity compensation for board service may be deemed to be beneficially owned by Clearstone Venture Management III, LLC, which is the general partner of the Clearstone entities that own shares of our stock, as described below in “Common Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management.”

PROPOSAL 2 — RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP AS INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The audit committee of our board of directors has selected Deloitte & Touche LLP (“Deloitte”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2019, and has further directed that management submit the selection of Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by the stockholders at the annual meeting. Deloitte has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since 2018. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) previously served as our independent registered public accounting firm from 2012 to 2018. Although stockholder approval of the selection of Deloitte is not required by law, our board of directors believes it is advisable as a matter of good corporate governance to give stockholders an opportunity to ratify this selection. If this proposal is not ratified at the Annual Meeting, the audit committee may (but will not be required to) reconsider its selection of Deloitte. Even if the selection is ratified, the audit committee may in its discretion select a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be appropriate.

Representatives of Deloitte are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will also be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders. Representatives of PwC are not expected to be present at the Annual Meeting.

The board of directors unanimously recommends that stockholders vote FOR the ratification of the selection of Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm.

Change of Independent Public Accounting Firm

As previously reported in our Current Report on Form 8-K, dated August 23, 2018 (the “Current Report”) and our 2018 proxy statement, the audit committee, with management’s assistance, conducted a competitive auditor review and selection process in order to select the firm to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. The audit committee invited several firms to participate in this review process. As a result of this process, the audit committee made the decision to dismiss PwC as our independent registered public accounting firm on August 17, 2018, and informed PwC that they were dismissed on August 17, 2018.

PwC’s audit reports on the Company’s consolidated financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 did not contain any adverse opinions or disclaimers of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, there were (i) no disagreements between the company and PwC on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of PwC, would have caused PwC to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement in their reports on our consolidated financial statements for such years, and (ii) no “reportable events” as that term is defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

We provided PwC with a copy of the disclosures we made in the Current Report prior to the time the Current Report was filed with the SEC. We requested that PwC furnish a letter addressed to the SEC stating whether or not it agrees with the statements made in the Current Report. A copy of PwC’s letter, dated August 23, 2018, was attached as Exhibit 16.1 to the Current Report and confirmed that they agreed with the statements we made in the Current Report.

On August 17, 2018, the audit committee appointed Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and the subsequent interim period through August 17, 2018, neither the company nor anyone acting on our behalf consulted with Deloitte on any of the matters or events set forth in Item 304(a)(2)(i) or 304(a)(2)(ii) of Regulation S-K.

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fees

The aggregate fees billed for audit and other services provided in the last two fiscal years by Deloitte are as follows:

Fee Category	2018	2017
Audit Fees ⁽¹⁾	\$ 812,516	—
Audit-Related Fees ⁽²⁾	—	—
Tax Fees ⁽³⁾	—	—
All Other Fees ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 3,790	—
Total	\$ 816,306	—

The aggregate fees billed for audit and other services provided in the last two fiscal years by PwC are as follows:

Fee Category	2018	2017
Audit Fees ⁽¹⁾	\$ 292,200	\$ 1,645,800
Audit-Related Fees ⁽²⁾	\$ 44,000	\$ 55,000
Tax Fees ⁽³⁾	—	\$ 20,139
All Other Fees ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 4,543	\$ 3,600
Total	\$ 340,743	\$ 1,724,539

- (1) Audit Fees cover professional services rendered for the audit of our annual financial statements and review of financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and services normally provided by the accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.
- (2) Audit-Related Fees cover assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of audit or review of our financial statements and not reported as Audit Fees.
- (3) Tax Fees cover tax compliance, advice, and planning services and consisted primarily of review of consolidated federal income tax returns and foreign tax issues.
- (4) All Other Fees related to license fees for accounting research software.

Pre-Approval Policy and Procedures

The audit committee has adopted policies and procedures relating to the pre-approval of all audit and non-audit services that are to be provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. The audit committee will not approve non-audit services that the independent registered public accounting firm is not permitted to perform under the rules of the SEC and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

On an annual basis, the independent registered public accounting firm will propose to the audit committee an audit plan and engagement letter describing the services the auditor expects to provide and related fees. The final engagement letter and fees agreed by Rubicon Project acting pursuant to the direction of the audit committee, and all of the services covered by the final engagement letter, will be considered pre-approved by the audit committee.

The audit committee or the Chair of the audit committee acting by delegated authority will approve, if necessary, any changes in terms, conditions and fees under the engagement letter resulting from changes in the audit scope, company structure or other matters.

The audit committee has delegated to the Chair of the audit committee the authority to approve on a case-by-case basis any audit or non-audit services, in amounts up to \$200,000 (1) per engagement, (2) per additional category of services, or (3) in excess of pre-approved amounts for the specified service. The Chair then reports any services so approved to the audit committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

All services rendered for fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2017 were pre-approved by the audit committee in accordance with the audit committee's pre-approval policies and procedures described above.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The audit committee of Rubicon Project's board of directors is composed of three members and acts under a written charter that has been approved by Rubicon Project's board of directors. The members of the audit committee are independent directors, based upon standards set forth in applicable laws, rules, and regulations. The audit committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management, and has discussed with Rubicon Project's independent registered public accounting firm (the "independent accounting firm") the matters required to be discussed by the applicable standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

The audit committee has also received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent accounting firm required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accounting firm's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent accounting firm its independence.

Management is responsible for the company's financial reporting process and the system of internal controls, including internal control over financial reporting, and procedures designed to promote compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. The independent accounting firm is responsible for the audit of the consolidated financial statements. The audit committee's responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes and procedures. The members of the audit committee are not professionally engaged in the practice of accounting or auditing and are not professionals in these fields. The audit committee relies, without independent verification, on the information provided by and on the representations made by management regarding the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, that the financial statements have been prepared with integrity and objectivity, and that such financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The audit committee also relies on the opinion of the independent accounting firm on the consolidated financial statements. The independent accounting firm is not required to attest to the effectiveness of the company's internal control over financial reporting until the company's first Annual Report required to be filed with the SEC following the later of the date the company is deemed to be an "accelerated filer" or a "large accelerated filer," each as defined in the Exchange Act, or the date the company is no longer an "emerging growth company," as defined in the Jumpstart Our Businesses Act of 2012.

The audit committee's meetings facilitate communication among the members of the audit committee, management, the internal auditors, and the independent accounting firm. The audit committee separately met with each of the internal auditors and independent accounting firm, with and without management, to discuss the results of their examinations and their observations and recommendations regarding Rubicon Project's internal controls. The audit committee also met separately with management.

Based on its discussions with management and the independent accounting firm, and its review of the representations and information provided by management and the independent accounting firm, the audit committee recommended to Rubicon Project's board of directors that Rubicon Project's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 be included in Rubicon Project's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.

By order of the audit committee of the board of directors of Rubicon Project,

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Lisa L. Troe, Chair
Lewis W. Coleman
Robert J. Frankenberg

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The table below sets forth certain information regarding our executive officers.

Name	Age ⁽¹⁾	Position
Michael G. Barrett	56	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
David L. Day	57	Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer
Jonathan Feldman	37	Co-General Counsel and Secretary
Eve Filip	39	Co-General Counsel and Chief Privacy Counsel
Thomas Kershaw	51	Chief Technology Officer
Joseph Prusz	40	Chief Revenue Officer
Adam Soroca	46	Head of Global Buyer Team
Blima Tuller	40	Chief Accounting Officer

(1) As of April 1, 2019

Michael G. Barrett. See “Proposal 1: Election of Directors” for Mr. Barrett’s biography.

David L. Day has served as our Chief Financial Officer since May 2016 and served as our Chief Accounting Officer from March 2013 to August 2017. From May 2011 to March 2013, Mr. Day served as the Chief Accounting Officer at ReachLocal, Inc., a public company servicing small and medium-sized businesses as their digital ad agency. Prior to that, Mr. Day provided finance and accounting-related consulting services to technology and telecommunications companies and was co-founder of SignJammer Corporation, a start-up in the out-of-home advertising market, from 2008 to 2011. His career also includes experience as Vice President of Finance for Spot Runner, a technology-based ad agency for small and medium-sized business, Senior Vice President of Finance for Yahoo! Search Marketing, Senior Vice President of Finance and Corporate Controller of Overture, and public accounting experience with PricewaterhouseCoopers and Arthur Andersen.

Jonathan Feldman has served as our Co-General Counsel and Secretary since June 2018. From November 2013 to June 2018, Mr. Feldman served as our Deputy General Counsel – Corporate and Assistant Secretary. Prior to joining the company, Mr. Feldman was counsel at O’Melveny & Myers LLP, where he focused on mergers and acquisitions and public company reporting.

Eve Filip has served as our Co-General Counsel and Chief Privacy Counsel since June 2018 and as our Data Protection Officer from June 2017 to December 2018. She previously served as our Deputy General Counsel – Commercial from March 2015 to June 2018. Prior to joining the company, Ms. Filip served as Assistant General Counsel at Sony Pictures Entertainment, an American entertainment company that produces, acquires, and distributes filmed entertainment through multiple platforms, from April 2014 to February 2015 and as Senior Counsel from July 2011 to April 2014. Ms. Filip also served as Vice President, Associate General Counsel at Ascent Media Group, a company that provides end-to-end media and technology services for the creation, management, and distribution of media content, from July 2007 to May 2011. Prior to such time, Ms. Filip worked as an attorney in the corporate department of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP from September 2004 to June 2007. Ms. Filip is a registered in-house counsel in the State of California.

Thomas Kershaw has served as our Chief Technology Officer since October 2016. Previously, Mr. Kershaw served as Director of Product Management of Google, a multinational technology company specializing in Internet-related services and products, from March 2013 to October 2016, and Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Iconnectiv business unit of Ericsson, a communications technology company, from March 2008 to March 2013. Mr. Kershaw has also held executive positions at VeriSign, Clarent Corporation and Unisys, and was Chief Technical Officer of SS8 Networks.

Joseph Prusz has served as our Chief Revenue Officer since December 2017 and is responsible for maintaining and growing our revenue stream across all formats, channels, and inventory types. Prior to that, since joining the company in September 2008, Mr. Prusz had various roles of increasing responsibility in our sales department, including leading the Americas region and being Head of Mobile.

Adam Soroca has served as our Head of Global Buyer Team since our acquisition of nToggle, Inc. in July 2017. Mr. Soroca co-founded nToggle in September 2014 and served as its Chief Executive Officer and a member of the board of directors until nToggle's sale to the company. Prior to founding nToggle, Mr. Soroca was the chief product officer at Millennial Media (via acquisition of Jumptap) from November 2013 to July 2014, where he oversaw the global product and operations teams. Prior to Millennial Media, from June 2005 to November 2013, Mr. Soroca was the chief product officer and a founding leadership team member at Jumptap, the leading mobile programmatic and audience platform. Mr. Soroca serves as an advisor at CoachUp, Inc., viisights and Chalk Digital. He pioneered bringing both audience data (DMP) and programmatic capabilities (DSP) to the mobile industry. He is a digital advertising entrepreneur and inventor, holding over 90 awarded patents spanning mobile advertising and search techniques.

Blima Tuller has served as our Chief Accounting Officer since August 2017. Prior to joining the company, Ms. Tuller was Chief Financial Officer of Liberman Broadcasting, Inc., a Spanish-language broadcaster, from July 2012 to July 2017. Liberman Broadcasting filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in November 2018. She was previously at MRV Communications Inc., a publicly traded technology company, where she served as Vice President, Finance from 2009 to 2011 and as Director of Finance from 2008 to 2009. From 2006 to 2008, Ms. Tuller served as Vice President of Finance and Chief Accounting Officer of QPC Lasers, Inc., a start-up manufacturer and distributor of semiconductor lasers. Prior to joining QPC Lasers, Inc., Ms. Tuller was Vice President of Finance of Ameripath, Inc.'s Esoteric Division, an anatomic pathology laboratory and esoteric testing services provider, and served as Director of Finance and Director of Internal Audit of Specialty Laboratories, a clinical reference laboratory acquired by Ameripath, Inc., from 2003 to 2006. From 1998 to 2003, Ms. Tuller held a positions of increasing responsibility at the public accounting firms of Arthur Andersen LLP and KPMG LLP.

Election of Officers

Our executive officers are elected by, and serve at the discretion of, our board of directors. There are no family relationships among any of our directors or executive officers.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following tables and narratives describe the 2018 and 2017 compensation provided to the persons who served as our principal executive officer and two other most highly compensated executive officers in 2018 (our “named executive officers”), Michael Barrett, David Day, and Thomas Kershaw.

Summary Compensation Table – 2018

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (1)(\$)	Option Awards (1)(\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (2)(\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Michael Barrett	2018	515,000	—	689,500	327,468	515,000	5,006 ⁽³⁾	2,051,974
President and CEO	2017	407,708 ⁽⁴⁾	—	6,375,000	2,110,085	315,037	1,728 ⁽⁵⁾	9,209,558
David Day	2018	400,000	100,000 ⁽⁶⁾	334,108	45,646	260,000	28,571 ⁽⁷⁾	1,168,325
Chief Financial Officer	2017	402,520 ⁽⁸⁾	100,000 ⁽⁶⁾	227,420	103,379	190,747	15,550 ⁽⁹⁾	1,039,616
Thomas Kershaw	2018	425,000	150,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	675,189	94,602	275,000	5,650 ⁽¹¹⁾	1,625,441
Chief Technology Officer	2017	425,000	150,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	616,835	214,256	211,763	1,832 ⁽¹²⁾	1,619,686

(1) In accordance with the rules of the SEC, these amounts are the aggregate grant date fair value computed in accordance with ASC 718. The company’s stock awards valuation approach and related assumptions are described in Note 2 “Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Stock-Based Compensation” and Note 13 “Stock-Based Compensation” to the Consolidated Financial Statements in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 filed with the SEC on February 27, 2019. The reported amounts do not necessarily reflect the value that may be realized by the executive with respect to the awards, which will depend on future changes in stock value and may be more or less than the amount shown.

(2) Cash incentive amounts earned by the named executive officers for service during the year, including amounts paid subsequent to that year based upon performance during that year.

(3) Represents \$4,856 in 401(k) plan matching and \$150 in life insurance premiums.

(4) Mr. Barrett joined the company in March 2017 with an annual salary of \$515,000.

(5) Represents \$1,609 in 401(k) plan matching and \$119 in life insurance premiums.

(6) Represents a \$100,000 retention bonus that vested during the applicable year.

(7) Represents \$20,125 in transportation reimbursement, \$8,250 in 401(k) plan matching and \$150 in life insurance premiums

(8) Increases in base salary were effective February 22, 2017. Represents 10.2 months of base salary at an annual rate of \$400,000 and 1.8 months of base salary at an annual rate of \$295,625. Includes \$17,500 in supplemental compensation for service as Interim Chief Financial Officer for 2017 through his appointment as permanent Chief Financial Officer on February 22, 2017.

(9) Represents \$14,400 in transportation reimbursement, \$1,000 in 401(k) plan matching and \$150 in life insurance premiums

(10) Represents a \$150,000 retention bonus that vested during the applicable year.

(11) Represents \$5,500 in 401(k) plan matching and \$150 in life insurance premiums

(12) Represents \$1,682 in 401(k) plan matching and \$150 in life insurance premiums.

Outstanding Equity Awards as of December 31, 2018

The following table provides information regarding outstanding equity awards made to our named executive officers as of December 31, 2018.

Name	Grant Date	Option Awards				Stock Awards			
		Exercisable	Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock that Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock that Have Not Vested (\$)(2)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights that Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights that Have Not Vested (\$)(2)
Michael Barrett	3/15/18	—	300,000	\$ 1.97	3/15/28				
	3/17/17	300,195	385,965	\$ 5.80	3/17/27				
	3/15/18					175,000 ⁽³⁾	652,750		
	3/15/18					175,000 ⁽⁴⁾	652,750		
	3/17/17					664,063 ⁽⁵⁾	2,476,955		
David Day	3/15/18	—	41,817	\$ 1.97	3/15/28				
	3/15/17	14,743	17,424	\$ 6.06	3/15/27				
	5/19/15	8,912	388	\$ 16.75	5/19/25				
	4/24/13	140,000	—	\$ 7.80	4/24/23				
	3/15/18					48,786 ⁽⁶⁾	181,972		
	1/15/18					100,000 ⁽⁷⁾	373,000		
	3/15/17					21,110 ⁽⁸⁾	78,740		
	1/31/16					9,375 ⁽⁹⁾	34,969		
5/19/15					1,569 ⁽¹⁰⁾	5,852			
Thomas Kershaw	3/15/18	—	86,667	\$ 1.97	3/15/28				
	3/15/17	30,555	36,112	\$ 6.06	3/15/27				
	11/15/16	27,083	22,917	\$ 7.72	11/15/26				
	3/15/18					101,111 ⁽¹¹⁾	377,144		
	1/15/18					200,000 ⁽¹²⁾	746,000		
	3/15/17					43,750 ⁽¹³⁾	163,188		
	11/15/16					62,500 ⁽¹⁴⁾	233,125		

- (1) All of the stock options vest (or vested) as a result of service to the company with respect to 25% of the underlying shares on or about the first anniversary of the grant date shown above and with respect to the remaining 75% of the underlying shares in equal monthly installments over the following 36 months.
- (2) In accordance with the rules of the SEC, the values represent the product of the number of shares that have not vested and \$3.73, which was the closing market price of our common stock on December 31, 2018. The reported amount does not necessarily reflect the value that may be realized by the individual because the awards vest over a specified period of time from the date of grant contingent upon continued employment, and the actual amount received upon sale of shares will depend upon the fair market value of the shares at the times they are sold.
- (3) These shares vest with respect to 54,687 of such shares on May 15, 2019; with respect to 21,875 of such shares on each November 15 and May 15 thereafter until November 15, 2021; and with respect to 10,938 of such shares on May 15, 2022.
- (4) These shares vest with respect to 87,500 of such shares on January 15, 2019 and with respect to 87,500 of such shares on January 15, 2020.
- (5) These shares vest with respect to 137,392 of such shares on each May 15 and November 15 through November 15, 2020 and with respect to 114,495 of such shares on May 15, 2021.
- (6) These shares vest with respect to 15,246 of such shares on May 15, 2019; with respect to 6,098 of such shares on each November 15 and May 15 thereafter until November 15, 2021; and with respect to 3,050 of such shares on May 15, 2022.
- (7) These shares vest with respect to 50,000 of such shares on January 15, 2019 and with respect to 50,000 of such shares on January 15, 2020.

- (8) These shares vest with respect to 4,691 of such shares on each May 15 and November 15 through November 15, 2020 and with respect to 2,346 of such shares on May 15, 2021.
- (9) These shares vest with respect to 3,750 of such shares on May 15, 2019 and November 15, 2019 and with respect to 1,875 of such shares on May 15, 2020.
- (10) These shares vest on May 15, 2019.
- (11) These shares vest with respect to 31,597 of such shares on May 15, 2019; with respect to 12,639 of such shares on each November 15 and May 15 thereafter until November 15, 2021; and with respect to 6,319 of such shares on May 15, 2022.
- (12) These shares vest with respect to 100,000 of such shares on January 15, 2019 and with respect to 100,000 of such shares on January 15, 2020.
- (13) These shares vest with respect to 9,722 of such shares on each May 15 and November 15 through November 15, 2020; and with respect to 4,862 of such shares on May 15, 2021.
- (14) These shares vest with respect to 15,625 of such shares on each May 15 and November 15 through November 15, 2020.

Rubicon Project's Compensation Framework

The company's compensation programs are designed to support creation of stockholder value while maintaining our ability to recruit and retain personnel. In 2018, in light of stock price pressure, our focus was on retaining key management personnel in order to deliver on the company's strategic and financial objectives, which included cutting expenses to align the cost structure with the lower revenue that resulted from cutting buyer fees in late 2017, returning to growth both in terms of scale and revenue, working towards a sustainable financial model, and being able to generate cash. With that in mind, the compensation committee designed 2018 pay opportunities to facilitate retention and reward leaders for company financial and strategic performance. We believe the company's ability to retain key leadership helped facilitate our strong performance in 2018, resulting in year-over-year revenue growth of 32% in the fourth quarter of 2018 and the company's stock price increasing from \$2.11 on January 2, 2018 to \$6.01 on February 28, 2019 after fourth quarter earnings were reported, an increase of 284%.

The compensation committee considers, determines, reviews, and revises all components of each named executive officer's compensation. It may not delegate that responsibility. The compensation committee also has oversight of and consults with management regarding executive and non-executive employee compensation plans and programs, including administration of our equity incentive plans. The compensation committee also periodically reviews the compensation of directors for service on the board and its committees and recommends any changes in compensation to the board. The board makes the final decisions with respect to the compensation of directors.

The compensation committee retains an independent executive compensation consultant, Semler Brossy Consulting Group, to provide input, analysis, and consultation about the company's executive compensation. During 2018, Semler Brossy's work with the compensation committee included analysis, advice, and recommendations on total compensation philosophy; peer groups and market assessment and analysis; pay positioning (by pay component and in total); compensation program design, including program goals, components, and metrics; equity usage and allocation; compensation trends in comparable business sectors and in the general marketplace for senior executives; structuring of retention awards; regulatory factors; and the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer and the other named executive officers, including advice on the design of cash-based and equity-based compensation. For more information on Semler Brossy's engagement, see the "Compensation Committee" section above.

Executive officers do not propose or seek approval for, or have any decision-making authority with respect to, their own compensation. The Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to the compensation committee on the base salary, annual incentive cash targets, and equity awards for each named executive officer other than himself, based on his assessment of each executive officer's performance during the year and other factors, including the Chief Executive Officer's review of compensation survey data and input from Semler Brossy.

Performance reviews for the Chief Executive Officer and other named executive officers include factors that may vary depending on the role of the individual officer, including: strategic capability—how well the executive officer identifies and develops relevant business strategies and plans; execution—how well the executive officer executes strategies and plans; and leadership capability—how well the executive officer leads and develops the organization and its people. An annual performance review of the Chief Executive Officer is managed by the compensation committee based upon various factors including Chief Executive Officer, management team,

and company performance, discussion with the independent directors, and input from senior management. The compensation committee considers this review in determining the Chief Executive Officer's base salary, annual incentive cash target, and equity awards.

We have engaged in discussions regarding our compensation philosophy with several of our large stockholders, and we intend to engage in further compensation-related discussions from time to time at such stockholders' request.

Risk Assessment in Compensation Programs

The compensation committee annually assesses the company's executive and broad-based compensation and benefits programs on an overall basis to determine whether the programs' provisions and operations create undesired or unintentional material risk. This risk assessment process takes into account numerous compensation terms and practices that the company maintains that aid in controlling risk, including the mix of cash, equity, and near- and long-term incentive programs, the use of multi-year vesting periods for equity awards, and a variety of performance criteria for incentive compensation, the claw-back provisions that apply to our annual incentive cash plan and equity plan, and the cap on the maximum cash incentive awards that can be earned in a given year regardless of company performance. This risk assessment process also included a review of program policies and practices, program analysis to identify risk and risk controls, and determinations as to the sufficiency of risk identification and risk control, the balance of potential risk to potential reward, and the significance of the programs and their risks to company strategy. Although we reviewed all significant compensation programs, we focused on those programs with variable payout, in particular assessing the ability of participants to directly affect payouts, and the controls on such situations.

Based on the foregoing, we believe that our compensation policies and practices do not create inappropriate or unintended significant risk to the company as a whole. We also believe that our incentive compensation programs do not encourage risk-taking beyond the organization's ability to effectively identify and manage significant risks; are compatible with effective internal controls and the company's risk-management practices; and are supported by the compensation committee's oversight of our executive compensation programs.

Employment Arrangements

The named executive officers serve on an at-will basis. The company has employment agreements with the named executive officers that confirm the at-will nature of their employment and provide for a base salary, eligibility to receive an annual performance bonus, and eligibility to participate in employee benefit or group insurance plans maintained from time to time by the company. The company is also party to agreements with the named executive officers providing for the severance benefits described below under "Post-Employment Compensation and Change in Control Payments and Benefits."

Peer Benchmarking Assessment

Fiscal Year 2018 Peer Group Approach. In October 2017, the compensation committee, with assistance from Semler Brossy, reviewed the list of peer group companies selected in 2016, and re-calibrated the peer companies to reflect updated revenue forecasts and growth trajectory for the company in 2018. As a result of this re-evaluation, seven companies used in the 2017 peer group were removed for the 2018 peer group. The seven companies removed were j2 Global, Inc., Yelp, Inc., Synchronoss Technologies, Inc., Shutterstock, Inc., RingCentral, Inc., Sizmek Inc. and TubeMogul, Inc., which had either been acquired or had outsized revenue or market capitalization as compared to our company. Nine new companies were added (QuinStreet, Inc., The Trade Desk, Inc., Varonis Systems, Inc., MobileIron, Inc., PROS Holdings, Inc., Synacor, Inc., AppFolio, Inc., Model N., Inc., and Leaf Group, Inc.); these companies were selected based on several criteria, including being similar to our company in size, being based in California or New York, and having a reasonably comparable business to ours. In addition to the nine new companies, the remaining peer group companies were Box, Inc., Cornerstone OnDemand, Inc., Rocket Fuel, Inc., TrueCar, Inc., Angie's List, Inc., Quotient Technologies, Inc. Qalsys, Inc. SPS Commerce, Inc., Tremor Video, Inc., Five9, Inc., and YuMe, Inc.

Fiscal Year 2019 Peer Group Approach. In July 2018, the compensation committee, with assistance from Semler Brossy, reviewed the list of peer group companies selected in 2017, and re-calibrated the peer companies to reflect our business expectations with respect to earnings, headcount, and potential return to revenue growth in

late 2018 and into 2019. As a result of this re-evaluation, five companies used in the 2018 peer group were removed for the 2019 peer group (Box, Inc., Cornerstone OnDemand, Inc., ANGI Homeservices Inc., Rocket Fuel, Inc., and YuMe, Inc.). Those five companies had either been acquired or had outsized revenue or market capitalization as compared to our company. Five new companies were added (ChannelAdvisor Corp., TechTarget, Inc., TeleNav, Inc., Digital Turbine, Inc., and Marchex, Inc.); these companies were selected based on several criteria, including being similar sized as our company, favoring companies based in California or New York, and having a reasonably comparable business to ours.

Base Salaries

Base salaries for our named executive officers are designed to be competitive when compared with similarly situated executives with our peer group, and are based on a variety of factors, including level of responsibility, performance, and the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer for named executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer. Base salaries are reviewed annually or at the time of promotion or other changes in responsibilities. In determining whether to award base salary increases, the compensation committee considers the company's overall business outlook, the company's budget, the executive's individual performance, historical compensation, market compensation levels for comparable positions, internal pay equity, and other factors, including any retention concerns.

Base salaries were unchanged from 2017 levels for each of our named executive officers. Based on the data from the peer groups described above and other factors, the compensation committee maintained the annual base salaries for 2018 for Messrs. Barrett, Kershaw, and Day at \$515,000, \$425,000, and \$400,000, respectively.

Incentive Compensation

Annual Incentive. For 2018, our named executive officers were eligible to receive cash incentive payments determined based upon the achievement of pre-established performance goals that the compensation committee believed were challenging yet achievable. The annual incentive compensation is an "at risk" performance-based cash award that is designed to motivate our named executive officers to achieve pre-established corporate financial objectives. For 2018, the target award opportunities were \$515,000 for Mr. Barrett, \$275,000 for Mr. Kershaw, and \$260,000 for Mr. Day. For 2018, performance was measured against three financial goals: ad spend, revenue, and adjusted EBITDA less capex (weighted 30%, 30%, and 40%, respectively). These financial metrics are described in the section entitled "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" in the Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation part of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 filed with the SEC on February 27, 2019. Cash incentive awards of up to 150% of target were attainable with specified levels of outperformance. Performance was measured mid-year and at fiscal year-end, with up to 40% of target payable as a mid-year advance based upon performance for each of our first two fiscal quarters and a final calculation and true-up based upon full-year performance. Each of our named executive officers received incentive compensation for 2018 at 100% of his respective target amount, resulting in payments of \$515,000, \$275,000, and \$260,000 to each of Messrs. Barrett, Kershaw, and Day, respectively.

Equity Incentive. We grant equity-based compensation to our named executive officers in order to attract, retain and reward our executives and strengthen the mutuality of interests between our named executive officers and stockholders. The compensation committee annually determines the form and amount of equity-based incentives granted to executives. In making its determinations, the compensation committee considers factors such as peer group market data, recommendations from Semler Brossy, the executive's and the company's performance in the last year and the results achieved by the executive, the executive's base salary, target annual incentive opportunity and prior grants of equity awards, and the compensation committee's view regarding the future potential of long-term contributions of the executive. Recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer are also taken into consideration for our named executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer. We maintain a 2014 Equity Incentive Plan pursuant to which we may make grants of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock and/or restricted stock units, performance cash or other stock awards to eligible participants, including our named executive officers, in the determination of our compensation committee based upon an assessment of their performance.

In January 2018, Messrs. Kershaw and Day received a one-time special two-year retention award comprised of 200,000 and 100,000 restricted stock units, respectively, that vest with respect to 50% on the one-year anniversary of the award and with respect to the other 50% on the two-year anniversary of the award. The compensation committee determined that a one-time award with shorter than usual vesting was justified in order to retain our leadership team at a time when the business required intense focus on accomplishing mission critical operational and strategic objectives for 2018. In March 2018, each of our named executive officers also received grants of stock options and time-based restricted stock units. For 2018, the target equity incentive for each of our named executive officers was \$985,000 for Mr. Barrett, \$289,000 for Mr. Kershaw, and \$139,000 for Mr. Day. The aggregate target value for each such named executive officer was allocated 30% to stock options and 70% to restricted stock units. If our stock price were not to increase, the stock options will not deliver any economic value. The stock options and restricted stock units vest over four years, except that half of Mr. Barrett's restricted stock units vest over two years in order to align his award with that of the other executives. In determining the size of the 2018 awards, the compensation committee acknowledged the company's low share price around \$2, the attendant retention issues, and the importance of maintaining a stable executive team and sought to balance delivering competitive grant values while recognizing the potential pressures on overall company dilution. For these reasons, the compensation committee delivered annual equity grants with a materially lower value in 2018 when compared to the 2017 annual equity grants which were awarded when the stock price was above \$8.

As the options have an exercise price based on our stock price on the grant date, the options will not have any value unless our stock price increases after the grant.

See the table titled "Outstanding Equity Awards as of December 31, 2018" for more information with respect to these grants.

Recoupment Policy

Our board of directors or the compensation committee shall, in circumstances it deems appropriate, require return to the company of the excess portion of any payment made to an employee pursuant to an award issued after April 7, 2016 under our 2014 Equity Incentive Plan or 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan, or under our non-equity incentive plan, if: (1) the payment was predicated upon achieving certain financial results that became the subject of a substantial restatement of our financial statements filed with the SEC within the three full fiscal years after the payment; (2) our board or the compensation committee determines that the participant engaged in intentional misconduct that caused or substantially caused the need for the substantial restatement; and (3) a lower payment would have been made to the participant based upon the restated financial results. In each such instance, the "excess portion" of the payment is the amount (in terms of dollars or shares) by which the payment received exceeded the lower payment that would have been made based on the restated financial results. In each case, the return of payment will be net of any taxes paid by the employee in connection with original receipt or subsequent transfer of the payment. Our board or the compensation committee also has the discretion, in circumstances it deems appropriate, to require reimbursement of any or all payments received with respect to any award granted on or after April 7, 2016 to an employee who has engaged in fraud, bribery, or illegal acts similar to fraud or bribery related to employment, or knowingly failed to report such acts of another employee over whom the employee had direct supervisory responsibility. Our board or the compensation committee shall not seek recovery to the extent it determines (a) that to do so would be unreasonable or (b) that it would be better for the company not to do so. In making such determination, and without limiting the scope of its discretion, our board or the compensation committee shall take into account such considerations as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, the likelihood of success under governing law versus the cost and effort involved, whether the assertion of a claim may prejudice our interests, including in any related proceeding or investigation, the passage of time since the occurrence of the act in respect of the applicable fraud or intentional illegal conduct, and any pending legal proceeding relating to the applicable fraud or illegal conduct. Our board or the compensation committee also may in its discretion direct the company to disclose the circumstances surrounding any recoupment made under this policy where not otherwise required by applicable regulation.

Executive Officer Equity Retention Guidelines

Under equity retention guidelines implemented by the board in April 2016, the Chief Executive Officer and each of the other named executive officers are required to accumulate within five years from the later of the date the guidelines were implemented and the date he or she became a named executive officer, and thereafter to retain for the duration of employment, a minimum level of company equity. The minimum level of equity for the Chief Executive Officer is equal to five times base salary and the minimum level of equity for the other named executive officers is equal to one times base salary. Equity that counts toward the ownership requirement includes: (1) shares owned outright by the named executive officer or beneficially owned by the named executive officer by virtue of being held by a member of the named executive officer's immediate family residing in the same household or in a trust for the benefit of the named executive officer or immediate family members residing in the same household; (2) shares held in qualified plans or IRAs; (3) vested shares (or vested restricted stock units) deemed to be held in non-qualified plans; (4) the in-the-money portion of vested stock options (but not unvested stock options); and (5) unvested time-based restricted shares (or restricted stock units). Until the minimum level of company equity is achieved, a named executive officer is prohibited from selling or otherwise transferring beneficial ownership of more than one-half of: (a) the vested after-tax shares of our common stock obtained as a result of the vesting of any restricted stock or restricted stock unit award made after implementation of the equity retention guidelines; or (b) the shares of our common stock subject to the vested portion of any stock option award made after implementation of the equity retention guidelines, net of any shares surrendered or sold to cover exercise price and/or income tax resulting from the exercise.

Post-Employment Compensation and Change in Control Payments and Benefits

We are a party to severance agreements with Messrs. Barrett, Kershaw, and Day providing that the executives are "at-will" employees. These agreements provide that if the company terminates the employment of any of these executives without "cause" or if any of these executives resigns for "good reason" (as such terms are defined in the severance agreements) and prior to and not in connection with the consummation of a "sale transaction" (as such term is defined in the severance agreements), the executive will be entitled to receive continuation of his then-current base salary for a specified period (12 months for Messrs. Barrett and Day and six months for Mr. Kershaw), a pro-rata bonus for the year of termination based upon the portion of the year worked and net of bonus amounts previously paid for the year, reimbursement of group health plan premiums for each of such executive and his respective dependents for a specified period (12 months for Mr. Barrett, six months for Mr. Day, and three months for Mr. Kershaw), and supplemental vesting based on the principle that the executive shall receive credit for an additional period of service (12 months for Mr. Barrett and Day and six months for Mr. Kershaw).

If the company terminates the employment of any of these executives without cause or any of them resigns for good reason in connection with or following a change in control of the company (within thirteen months of the change in control for Mr. Barrett), the benefits described above will be increased to include full acceleration of vesting of all equity awards, improved reimbursement of group health plan premiums (12 months for Messrs. Barrett and Day and six months for Mr. Kershaw), and, for Messrs. Barrett and Day, additional cash severance equal to one year's target bonus.

All severance benefits are conditioned upon these executives entering into a release of claims with us.

Other Employee Benefits and Perquisites

We have generally not offered extensive benefits or other compensation programs to our named executive officers, apart from employee benefits made available generally to our employees as noted in the Summary Compensation Table above. Mr. Day is eligible for up to \$30,000 in annual reimbursement for the use of a car service for transportation between his home and our headquarters for the purpose of allowing Mr. Day to devote his lengthy commute time to work duties.

As part of our overall compensation program, we provide all full-time employees, including our named executive officers, with the opportunity to participate in a defined contribution 401(k) plan. Our 401(k) plan is intended to qualify under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code so that employee contributions and income earned on such contributions are not taxable to employees until withdrawn. Employees may elect to defer a percentage of their eligible compensation (not to exceed the statutorily prescribed annual limit) in the form of

elective deferral contributions to our 401(k) plan. Our 401(k) plan also has a “catch-up contribution” feature for employees aged 50 or older (including those who qualify as “highly compensated” employees) who can defer amounts over the statutory limit that applies to all other employees. We may make matching or other contributions under the plan. Our current policy is to provide a matching contribution that ranged based on tenure, with a cap of 100% of an employee’s contributions up to 6% of his or her compensation. Our 401(k) plan also includes a feature that allows employees to contribute additional funds up to a statutory limit on an after-tax basis.

Policy against Repricing and Cash Buyouts

Our 2014 Equity Incentive Plan and 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan prohibit the board from decreasing the exercise price of or otherwise repricing awards of stock options and stock appreciation rights unless such action is first approved by the company’s stockholders. In addition, the plans prohibit the company from redeeming or repurchasing stock options or stock appreciation rights unless such redemptions or repurchases are approved by the company’s stockholders.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table provides information as of December 31, 2018 with respect to the shares of our common stock that may be issued under our existing equity compensation plans:

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options and Rights (a)	Weighted-average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options and Rights ⁽⁴⁾ (b)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c)
Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Stockholders ⁽¹⁾	7,783,978	\$ 8.37	7,469,046 ⁽⁵⁾
Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Stockholders ⁽²⁾	1,802,809	\$ 3.99	840,472 ⁽⁶⁾
Total	9,586,787⁽³⁾	\$ 7.06	8,309,518

(1) Consists of our 2007 Stock Incentive Plan, 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, and 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

(2) Consists of our 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan, the iSocket, Inc. 2009 Equity Incentive Plan, the Chango Inc. 2009 Stock Option Plan, and the nToggle, Inc. 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, each described below.

(3) Represents 3,487,565 shares to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options and 6,099,222 shares subject to outstanding unvested restricted stock units. Does not include 46,801 unvested restricted stock awards, which are included in outstanding shares.

(4) Represents the weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options. Does not take into account shares that are subject to outstanding unvested restricted stock units as the shares become issuable upon vesting without any exercise price or other cash consideration required.

(5) Consists of 5,861,400 shares that were available for future issuance under the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan and 1,607,646 shares that were available for future issuance under the 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan as of December 31, 2018. On January 1, 2019, an additional 2,557,970 and 511,594 shares became available for future issuance under the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan and 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, respectively, pursuant to the plans’ evergreen provisions. No future awards will be made under our 2007 Stock Incentive Plan.

(6) Shares available for future issuance under the 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2018.

Our 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan was adopted by our board in November 2014 for use in making employment inducement awards pursuant to New York Stock Exchange Rule 303A.08. A total of 1,000,000 shares of our common stock was initially reserved for granting stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock

units, stock appreciation rights, performance stock awards, and other awards under our 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan. Our board or the compensation committee may increase the number of shares reserved for granting awards under this plan in its discretion, from time to time. The share reserve under this plan was increased by 1,700,000 shares in March 2017 to provide shares underlying the initial equity awards granted to Mr. Barrett in connection with his hire as our President and Chief Executive Officer, which were made as inducement awards. Our board and the compensation committee have discretion to determine the terms of awards granted under our 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan, including vesting, forfeiture and acceleration. The exercise price for stock options granted under our 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan will not be less than the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. Restricted stock units may be granted in exchange for any form of legal consideration acceptable to our board and restricted stock may be granted in exchange for the payment of a purchase price, past or future services to our company or any other form of legal consideration. In connection with our acquisition of iSocket, Inc. in November 2014, we issued 132,000 stock options under our 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan with an exercise price of \$14.62 per share and a ten-year term, and vesting over approximately four years, with 25% of the total shares granted vesting on the first anniversary of the date of the acquisition of iSocket, Inc. and the balance vesting in 36 equal monthly installments thereafter. In connection with the acquisition of iSocket, we also issued 126,050 restricted stock unit awards under the 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan, vesting over approximately 54 months. In connection with our acquisition of nToggle, Inc. in July 2014, we issued an aggregate of 174,117 restricted stock units under the 2014 Inducement Grant Equity Incentive Plan, vesting over approximately four years.

We assumed the iSocket, Inc. 2009 Equity Incentive Plan in connection with our acquisition of iSocket, Inc. in November 2014. In connection with the acquisition, and giving effect to the exchange ratio used to determine the number of shares we issued to pay the purchase price in the acquisition, we assumed a total of 318,685 outstanding stock options previously granted under the iSocket, Inc. 2009 Equity Incentive Plan, with a weighted-average exercise price per share of \$4.31, remaining terms ranging to September 2024 and remaining vesting periods ranging to September 2018. In addition, 95,080 shares of common stock remaining available under the iSocket 2009 Equity Incentive Plan were added to the pool of available shares under our 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, and can be used for awards during the period when they would have been available for grant under the iSocket, Inc. 2009 Equity Incentive Plan to persons who were not employed by the company or its affiliates immediately before the iSocket acquisition, and otherwise in accordance with the New York Stock Exchange Rule 303A.08. No further awards will be made under the iSocket 2009 Equity Incentive Plan.

We assumed the Chango 2009 Stock Option Plan in connection with our acquisition of Chango in April 2015. In connection with the acquisition, and giving effect to the exchange ratio used to determine the number of shares we issued to pay the purchase price in the acquisition, we assumed a total of 428,798 outstanding stock options previously granted under the Chango 2009 Stock Option Plan, with a weighted-average exercise price per share of \$4.43, remaining terms ranging to March 2020 and remaining vesting periods ranging to March 2019. In addition, 247,686 shares of common stock remaining available under the Chango 2009 Stock Option Plan were added to the pool of available shares under our 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, and can be used for awards during the period when they would have been available for grant under the Chango 2009 Stock Option Plan to persons who were not employed by the company or its affiliates immediately before the Chango acquisition, and otherwise in accordance with the New York Stock Exchange Rule 303A.08. No further awards will be made under the Chango 2009 Stock Option Plan.

We assumed the nToggle, Inc. 2014 Equity Incentive Plan in connection with our acquisition of nToggle, Inc. in July 2017. In connection with the acquisition, and giving effect to the exchange ratio used to determine the number of Rubicon Project options we issued in exchange for outstanding nToggle options, we assumed a total of 432,482 options previously granted under the nToggle, Inc. 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, with a weighted-average exercise price per share of \$0.51, remaining terms ranging to April 2027 and remaining vesting periods ranging to April 2021. We also assumed 77,499 shares of unvested restricted stock with a remaining vesting period to October 2019. In addition, 480,673 shares of common stock remaining available under the nToggle, Inc. 2014 Equity Incentive Plan were added to the pool of available shares under our 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, and can be used for awards during the period when they would have been available for grant under the nToggle 2014 Equity Incentive Plan to persons who were not employed by the company or its affiliates immediately before the nToggle acquisition, and otherwise in accordance with the New York Stock Exchange Rule 303A.08. No Further awards will be made under the nToggle 2014 Equity Incentive Plan.

COMMON STOCK OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table presents information regarding beneficial ownership of our equity interests as of March 18, 2019 by:

- each stockholder or group of stockholders known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our outstanding equity interests;
- each of our directors and director nominees;
- each of our named executive officers; and
- all of our current directors and executive officers as a group.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC, and thus represents voting or investment power with respect to our securities. Unless otherwise indicated below, to our knowledge, the persons and entities 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. Percentage ownership of our common stock is based on 51,804,341 shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 18, 2019.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Shares of Common Stock ⁽²⁾	Percent
5% Stockholders		
Dimensional Fund Advisors ⁽³⁾	2,567,227	5.0%
Named Executive Officers		
Michael Barrett ⁽⁴⁾	1,185,480	2.3%
Thomas Kershaw ⁽⁵⁾	244,574	*
David Day ⁽⁶⁾	211,341	*
Directors and Director Nominees		
Frank Addante ⁽⁷⁾	1,480,080	2.8%
Sumant Mandal ⁽⁸⁾	1,680,468	3.2%
Robert F. Spillane ⁽⁹⁾	133,424	*
Robert J. Frankenberg ⁽¹⁰⁾	133,424	*
Lisa L. Troe ⁽¹¹⁾	131,274	*
Lewis W. Coleman ⁽¹²⁾	101,774	*
All Current Executive Officers and Directors as a Group (14 persons) ⁽¹³⁾	5,703,812	10.6%

* Indicates ownership of less than one percent.

(1) Except as noted, the address of the named beneficial owner is c/o The Rubicon Project, Inc., 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90094.

(2) The number of shares beneficially owned by each stockholder is determined under rules promulgated by the SEC and the information is not necessarily indicative of beneficial ownership for any other purpose. Under such rules, beneficial ownership includes shares (i) as to which the individual or entity has sole or shared voting power or investment power, and (ii) the individual owns or has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of within 60 days of March 18, 2019. Shares not owned but which the individual has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days of March 18, 2019 are included in the numerator and denominator for that specific individual in calculating that individual's beneficial ownership percentage, but not deemed outstanding in the aggregate for computing the ownership percentage for others.

(3) Beneficial ownership information is based solely upon a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 8, 2019 by Dimensional Fund Advisors L.P. ("Dimensional Funds"). The Schedule 13G states that Dimensional Fund has sole voting power over 2,399,939 shares of our common stock and sole dispositive power over 2,569,051 shares of our common stock. The Schedule 13G also discloses that Dimensional Funds is an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, and furnishes investment advice to four investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, and serves as investment manager or sub-adviser to certain other commingled funds, group trusts and separate accounts (such investment companies, trusts and accounts, collectively referred to as the "Funds"). In certain cases, subsidiaries of Dimensional Funds may act as an adviser or sub-adviser to certain Funds. In its role as investment advisor, sub-adviser and/or manager, Dimensional Funds or its subsidiaries

(collectively, "Dimensional") may possess voting and/or investment power over our securities that are owned by the Funds, and may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of our shares held by the Funds. However, all securities reported in the table above are owned by the Funds. Dimensional disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities. The address for Dimensional Funds is Building One, 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin, Texas 787467.

- (4) Includes 465,420 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable by Mr. Barrett within 60 days of March 18, 2019, of which 424,330 were fully vested as of such date. Excludes options to purchase 820,740 shares of common stock and 1,084,484 restricted stock units that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of March 18, 2019.
- (5) Includes 73,402 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable by Mr. Kershaw within 60 days of March 18, 2019, of which 64,930 were fully vested as of such date. Excludes options to purchase 285,460 shares of common stock and 459,417 restricted stock units that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of March 18, 2019.
- (6) Includes 180,460 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable by Mr. Day within 60 days of March 18, 2019, of which 177,378 were fully vested as of such date, and 10,944 shares of unvested time-based restricted stock. Excludes options to purchase 203,824 shares of common stock and 287,959 restricted stock units that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of March 18, 2019.
- (7) Includes 183,464 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable by Mr. Addante within 60 days of March 18, 2019, all of which were fully vested as of such date.
- (8) Includes (i) 86,500 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Mr. Mandal within 60 days of March 18, 2019, 77,071 of which were fully vested as of such date; and (ii) 1,548,980 shares held by Clearstone Venture Partners III-A, L.P., Clearstone Venture Management III, L.L.C., and Clearstone Venture Partners III-B, L.P. Mr. Mandal is a managing member of Clearstone Venture Management III, LLC and, as such, may be deemed to share voting and investment power with respect to all shares held by the Clearstone entities. Mr. Mandal disclaims beneficial ownership of the 1,548,980 shares held by the Clearstone entities, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, if any.
- (9) Includes 86,500 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Mr. Spillane within 60 days of March 18, 2019, 77,071 of which were fully vested as of such date.
- (10) Includes 86,500 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Mr. Frankenberg within 60 days of March 18, 2019, 77,071 of which were fully vested as of such date.
- (11) Includes 86,500 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Ms. Troe within 60 days of March 18, 2019, 77,071 of which were fully vested as of such date. Ms. Troe has shared voting and investment power with respect to these shares.
- (12) Includes 65,633 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Mr. Coleman within 60 days of March 18, 2019, 56,204 of which were fully vested as of such date.
- (13) Includes 1,432,334 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 18, 2019, of which 1,328,285 were fully vested as of such date and 10,944 shares of unvested time-based restricted stock. Excludes options to purchase 1,724,829 shares of common stock that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of March 18, 2019. Excludes 2,763,638 restricted stock units that will remain unvested within 60 days of March 18, 2019.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS

There are no transactions since January 1, 2017 to which the company has been a participant, in which the amount involved in the transaction exceeded or will exceed \$120,000, and in which any of our directors, executive officers or beneficial holders of more than 5% of our capital stock, or their family members, had or will have a direct or indirect material interest. Compensation arrangements with our directors and officers are described under “Director Compensation” and “Executive Compensation.”

Indemnification Agreements

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our current directors, executive officers and certain other officers. The indemnification agreements and our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws require us to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law.

Procedures for Approval of Related Person Transactions

We have adopted a formal written policy providing that related person transactions may be consummated or continued only if approved or ratified by the audit committee. The policy defines “related person transactions” as transactions in which we are or will be a participant, the aggregate amount involved since the beginning of the company’s last fiscal year exceeds or may be expected to exceed \$100,000, and a related person has or will have a direct or indirect interest. For purposes of this policy, a related person is a person who is or was since the beginning of our last fiscal year a director, nominee for director, or executive officer; a greater than 5% beneficial owner of our common stock; or an immediate family member of any such person. The policy provides that our legal department will review each proposed related person transaction and prepare a description for the audit committee, which will review the proposed transaction and consider such factors, as it deems appropriate, including at least the following factors:

- the terms of the transaction as compared to terms available for a similar transaction with a non-related party;
- the extent of the related person’s interest in the transaction;
- the disclosure requirements associated with the transaction;
- the effect of the transaction upon the independence of any director involved;
- the effect of the transaction upon the ability of the related person to fulfill his or her duties to the company; and
- the appearance of the transaction.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors, executive officers, and persons who beneficially own more than ten percent of our common stock to file reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5 with the SEC concerning their ownership of, and transactions in, our common stock.

To our knowledge, based solely on our review of the copies of such reports furnished to us and on the representations of the reporting persons, all of these reports were timely filed for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, except that on May 17, 2018, Mr. Prusz filed a Form 4 to report a grant of 30,000 restricted stock units on March 15, 2018.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS AND NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 14a-8(e), proposals of stockholders being submitted for inclusion in our proxy materials for our 2020 annual meeting of stockholders must be received by us at our corporate headquarters at 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094, directed to the attention of our Corporate Secretary, not later than December 7, 2019 to be considered for inclusion in the proxy statement for that meeting.

Under our bylaws, director nominations and other proposals at our 2020 annual meeting of stockholders that are not intended or eligible for inclusion in the proxy statement for that meeting may, nonetheless, be considered for presentation at the meeting if the nomination or proposal is delivered to or mailed and received by us at our corporate headquarters at 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094 not earlier than the close of business on January 16, 2020 and not later than the close of business on February 15, 2020. However, if the date of the 2020 annual meeting is more than 30 days before the first anniversary of the Annual Meeting or more than 60 days after such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder to be timely must be delivered not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90th day prior to such annual meeting or the 10th day following the date on which we first make public announcement of the date of the annual meeting. A copy of our bylaws may be obtained from our Corporate Secretary.

The chairman of the meeting may refuse to acknowledge or introduce any matter brought by a stockholder at a meeting if notice of the matter is not received within the applicable deadlines or does not comply with our bylaws. If a stockholder does not meet these deadlines, or does not satisfy the requirements of Rule 14a-4 of the Exchange Act, the persons named as proxies will be allowed to use their discretionary voting authority when and if the matter is raised at the meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 as filed with the SEC on February 27, 2019, without exhibits, will be provided without charge upon written request addressed to our Corporate Secretary at our corporate headquarters at 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094. A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K may also be obtained via the Internet by following the instructions set forth in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or in the “Financials and Filings” section of our Investor Relations website at <http://investor.rubiconproject.com>.

By Order of the Board of Directors,



Jonathan Feldman
Secretary

April 5, 2019

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON, IN ORDER TO ENSURE REPRESENTATION OF YOUR SHARES PLEASE VOTE AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE AS INSTRUCTED IN THESE MATERIALS OR, IF THIS PROXY STATEMENT WAS MAILED TO YOU, BY COMPLETING, DATING AND SIGNING THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD OR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND MAILING IT IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. NO POSTAGE NEED BE AFFIXED IF THE PROXY CARD IS MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.



Proxy for Annual Meeting of Stockholders on May 15, 2019

Solicited on Behalf of the Board of Directors

The undersigned hereby appoints Blima Tuller, David L. Day and Jonathan Feldman as proxies, each with the power to appoint his or her substitute, and hereby authorizes them to represent and vote, as designated on the reverse side hereof, all the shares of common stock of The Rubicon Project, Inc. held of record by the undersigned at the close of business on March 18, 2019 at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 12:00 p.m., Pacific Time, at 12181 Bluff Creek Drive, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90094, and at any postponement or adjournment thereof and to vote in their discretion upon such other matters as may be properly presented at the meeting.

(Continued and to be signed on the reverse side.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF



May 15, 2019

GO GREEN

e-Consent makes it easy to go paperless. With e-Consent, you can quickly access your proxy material, statements and other eligible documents online, while reducing costs, clutter and paper waste. Enroll today via www.astfinancial.com to enjoy online access.

NOTICE OF INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIAL:

The Notice of Meeting, 2018 Annual Report, proxy statement and proxy card are available at http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/18899/

Please sign, date and mail your proxy card in the envelope provided as soon as possible.

Please detach along perforated line and mail in the envelope provided.

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND "FOR" PROPOSAL 2. PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE [X]

1. Election of Directors:

Michael G. Barrett FOR [] AGAINST [] ABSTAIN []

Robert F. Spillane FOR [] AGAINST [] ABSTAIN []

2. To ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the company's independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year. FOR [] AGAINST [] ABSTAIN []

3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any postponements or adjournments thereof.

In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting. This proxy when properly executed will be voted as directed herein by the undersigned Stockholder. If no direction is made, this proxy will be voted "FOR" the election of directors and "FOR" Proposal 2.

To change the address on your account, please check the box at right and indicate your new address in the address space above. Please note that changes to the registered name(s) on the account may not be submitted via this method. []

Signature of Stockholder [] Date: [] Signature of Stockholder [] Date: []

Note: Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.