

**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 OCTOBER 24, 2018**

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, October 24, 2018, at 12:00 noon local time, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. Election of two Class I 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 August 27, 2018 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof. The stock transfer books of the company will remain open following the record date.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

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

Jonathan Feldman
Secretary

Los Angeles, California
September 14, 2018

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 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 October 24, 2018:

The company's 2018 Proxy Statement and Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 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 OCTOBER 24, 2018**

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, October 24, 2018 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.

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 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. 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. Proxies must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 23, 2018 to be counted. 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 September 14, 2018.

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 I directors of the company designated herein as the board’s nominees (see “Proposal 1 – Election of Directors” beginning at page 4 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 15 of this proxy statement).

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 October 23, 2018 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.

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

On August 27, 2018, the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, there were outstanding and entitled to vote an aggregate of 50,750,663 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 account 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 voting "ABSTAIN" and broker non-votes will be excluded from the vote and 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. Our board of directors does not know of any other matters that may come before the Annual Meeting. However, if any other matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting, the persons acting as proxies will vote, or otherwise act, in accordance with their judgment on such matters.

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 on routine matters. However, for non-routine matters, your bank, broker, or other nominee does not have discretionary authority to vote your shares. 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. 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.

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. 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 2018 Annual Meeting; three Class II directors, whose terms expire at the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders; 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.

Our process for nominating director candidates is described below under the caption “Director Candidate Nominating Procedures.” Our board of directors nominated incumbents Messrs. Addante and Frankenberg to stand for election as Class I directors at the Annual Meeting. Each nominee has indicated his willingness to serve if elected, but if he is unable or unwilling to serve, proxies may be voted for a substitute nominee designated by our board of directors. Each nominee, if elected, will hold office until the 2021 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 incumbent 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	41	Chairman				April 2007
Michael G. Barrett	56	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director				March 2017
Lewis W. Coleman	76	Director	X	X		December 2015
Robert J. Frankenberg	70	Lead Director	X	X	X	April 2014
Sumant Mandal	49	Director		Chair		May 2007
Robert F. Spillane	67	Director		X	Chair	April 2014
Lisa L. Troe	56	Director		Chair	X	February 2014

(1) As of September 14, 2018

Director Nominees – 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 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.

Sumant Mandal has been a member of our board of directors since May 2007. Mr. Mandal has been a Managing Director at Clearstone Venture Partners, a leading early stage venture capital firm that has been the initial investor in companies such as Paypal, Netzero, MP3.com, Overture and many others, since 2004. Since June 2014, he has also been a Managing Director at March Capital Partners, a venture capital firm. Mr. Mandal has been investing in technology businesses for over 16 years. He is co-founder of The Hive and The Fabric, companies that incubate and invest in early stage technology businesses. Mr. Mandal sits on the boards of multiple private companies where he is lead investor. Prior to his venture capital career, Mr. Mandal co-founded multiple businesses in the online media, energy and industrial systems sectors, both in the U.S. and India. Mr. Mandal is also a Charter Member of TiE, a not-for-profit global network of entrepreneurs and professionals. Mr. Mandal brings to the board a deep knowledge of the company, its business and history and years of experience in founding, investing in, and growing technology and online media businesses.

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 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. 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. Addante and Frankenberg as Class I 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.

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 and regulations of the SEC and the listing requirements and rules of the New York Stock Exchange for purposes of service on the board and its committees.

Audit committee members must also satisfy the additional, heightened independence criteria set forth in Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act, which provides that a member of an audit committee of a listed company may not, other than in his or her capacity as a member of the audit committee, the board of directors, or any other board committee: (i) accept, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fee from the listed company or any of its subsidiaries; or (ii) be an affiliated person of the listed company or any of its subsidiaries.

Members of our compensation committee must also satisfy the additional, heightened independence criteria set forth under Rule 10C-1 of the Exchange Act and under the rules and regulations of the New York Stock Exchange. In determining independence for these purposes, a listed company's board of directors must consider: (i) the source of all compensation paid by the company to a director serving on the compensation committee, other than compensation for serving on the board, including any consulting, advisory or other fees; and (ii) whether the director is an affiliated person of the listed company, any of its subsidiaries or any affiliate of a subsidiary.

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 2017, our board of directors met 16 times, the audit committee met seven times, the compensation committee met seven times, and the nominating & governance committee met five times. The independent directors met in executive sessions without management in connection with eight of the board meetings, four of the audit committee meetings, and five of the compensation committee meetings. During 2017, each continuing director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of board meetings and meetings held by all committees on which the director then served.

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 2017 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 4. 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 certain limitations, including the following limitations: (1) no awards may be granted to himself or herself, or to members of the board or any executive officer; (2) any individual may not 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 an outside director for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, and 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.

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 2019 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 2019 annual meeting of stockholders.

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 recently received 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 2017) 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

Equity compensation for non-employee directors consists 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 \$175,000. An initial equity award is granted on the first issuance date under the company's equity award grant guidelines for employee equity awards next following the date of election or appointment to the board or attainment of non-employee director status. Annual equity awards are issued on the first issuance date under the company's equity award grant guidelines for employee equity awards next following the date of each annual meeting. If no intervening annual meeting has been held, annual equity awards will be granted on the first issuance date under the guidelines 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 next annual meeting.

Each equity award consists 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 are 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 is less than \$12.00 on the grant date, then for stock options, \$12.00 will be 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 will be 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. The Board is considering eliminating the \$12.00 floor used to calculate the number of awards to be issued beginning in 2019.

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 stock options and restricted stock units comprising that 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; 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.

2017 Director Compensation Table

The following table sets forth all compensation provided to our non-employee directors for 2017.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (1) (\$)	Stock Awards (2)(3)(\$)	Option Awards (2)(4)(\$)	Total (\$)
Lewis W. Coleman	45,000	37,700	87,499	170,199
Robert J. Frankenberg	63,500	37,700	87,499	188,699
Sumant Mandal ⁽⁵⁾	42,500	37,700	87,499	167,669
Robert F. Spillane	42,500	37,700	87,499	167,669
Lisa L. Troe	53,500	37,700	87,499	178,699

- (1) Consists of annual board retainer and fees for service as a committee chair, committee member, or Lead Director, as the case may be. 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"). 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 our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 filed with the SEC on March 15, 2018. The reported amounts do not necessarily reflect aggregate income that may be recognized by the individual for income tax purposes upon vesting of awards or sale of shares, or the value that may be realized by the individual upon sale of shares, which amounts will depend upon the fair market value of the shares at the times that the awards vest and shares are sold 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 May 2017 to each director, with an aggregate grant date fair market value as described in footnote 2 of \$37,700. As of December 31, 2017, 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:

Lewis W. Coleman	11,709
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 10,363 shares with an exercise price of \$5.17 per share issued in May 2017 to each director, with an aggregate grant date fair market value as described in footnote 2 of \$87,499. As of December 31, 2017, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock covered by stock options held by each of our non-employee directors was as follows:

Lewis W. Coleman	56,204
Robert J. Frankenberg	77,071
Sumant Mandal	77,071
Robert F. Spillane	77,071
Lisa L. Troe	77,071

- (5) 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 decided to appoint Deloitte & Touche LLP (“Deloitte”) as our new independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018, 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. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) previously served as our independent registered public accounting firm since 2012. 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”), 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, respectively, and the subsequent interim period through August 17, 2018, 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 it 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

Prior to the change of our independent registered public accounting firm to Deloitte, we were represented by PwC. The aggregate fees billed for audit and other services provided in the last two fiscal years by our PwC are as follows:

Fee Category	2017	2016
Audit Fees ⁽¹⁾	\$ 1,645,800	\$ 1,518,900
Audit-Related Fees ⁽²⁾	\$ 55,000	\$ 58,878
Tax Fees ⁽³⁾	\$ 20,139	\$ 12,759
All Other Fees ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Total	\$ 1,724,539	\$ 1,594,137

- (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 in 2017 and 2016 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 2017 and fiscal 2016 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, 2017 be included in Rubicon Project's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

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	36	Co-General Counsel and Secretary
Eve Filip	39	Co-General Counsel and Data Protection Officer
Thomas Kershaw	50	Chief Technology Officer
Joseph Prusz	40	Chief Revenue Officer
Adam Soroca	46	Head of Global Buyer Team
Blima Tuller	39	Chief Accounting Officer

(1) As of September 14, 2018

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 since June 2018 and as our Data Protection Officer since June 2017. 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 privately held, minority-owned Spanish-language broadcaster in the United States, from July 2012 to July 2017. 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 variety of positions 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 2017 and, where applicable, 2016 and 2015 compensation provided to the persons who served as our named executive officers in 2017, Michael Barrett, Frank Addante, David Day and Thomas Kershaw.

Summary Compensation Table

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 President and CEO	2017	407,708 ⁽³⁾	—	6,375,000	2,110,085	315,037	1,728 ⁽⁴⁾	9,209,558
Frank Addante ⁽⁵⁾ Founder and Chairman	2017	515,000	—	—	—	105,822	515,150 ⁽⁶⁾	1,135,972
	2016	515,000	—	2,298,629 ⁽⁷⁾	508,117	712,748	36 ⁽⁸⁾	4,034,530
David Day Chief Financial Officer	2017	402,520 ⁽⁹⁾	100,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	227,420	103,379	190,747	15,500 ⁽¹¹⁾	1,039,566
	2016	365,564 ⁽¹²⁾	15,000 ⁽¹³⁾	704,696	—	176,955	36 ⁽¹⁴⁾	1,262,251
Thomas Kershaw Chief Technology Officer	2017	425,000	150,000 ⁽¹⁵⁾	616,835	214,256	211,763	1,832 ⁽¹⁶⁾	1,619,686
	2016	106,250 ⁽¹⁷⁾	50,000 ⁽¹⁸⁾	965,000	218,678	66,894	20,009 ⁽¹⁹⁾	1,426,831

- (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, 2017 filed with the SEC on March 15, 2018. The reported amounts do not necessarily reflect aggregate income that may be recognized by the individual for income tax purposes upon vesting of awards or sale of shares, or the value that may be realized by the individual upon sale of shares, which amounts will depend upon the fair market value of the shares at the times that the awards vest and shares are sold 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) Mr. Barrett joined the company in March 2017 with an annual salary of \$515,000.
- (4) Represents \$1,609 in 401(k) plan matching and \$119 in life insurance premiums.
- (5) Mr. Addante resigned as our Chief Executive Officer in March 2017, but continues to serve as the non-executive Chairman of our board of directors. 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. Mr. Addante's base salary continued during this employment arrangement, but he did not receive any equity awards in 2017 and his non-equity incentive plan compensation did not continue after cessation of his service as Chief Executive Officer.
- (6) Represents the liquidation of the company's obligation to provide Mr. Addante with one year of salary continuation under the terms of his severance agreement. Also includes \$150 in life insurance premiums.
- (7) A portion of the awards are performance-based restricted stock in the form of market stock awards. The value of the performance-based restricted stock included in the table as of the time of grant, based upon assumptions regarding the probable outcome of the applicable performance conditions as determined at the time of grant, is \$1,282,387. If we had assumed the highest level of performance conditions will be achieved, the value of such awards as of the time of grant would have been \$1,524,362. The measurement date for determination of any vesting of the awards issued in 2016 has not yet occurred.
- (8) Represents life insurance premiums.
- (9) 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.
- (10) Represents a \$100,000 retention bonus.
- (11) Represents \$14,400 in transportation reimbursement, \$1,000 in 401(k) plan matching and \$150 in life insurance premiums
- (12) Increases in base salary were effective February 1, 2016. Represents 11 months of base salary at an annual rate of \$295,625 and one month of base salary at an annual rate of \$275,000. Includes \$72,258 in supplemental compensation for services as Interim Chief Financial Officer from Mr. Day's appointment as Interim Chief Financial Officer on May 25, 2016 through the end of the year.
- (13) Represents a \$15,000 spot bonus.
- (14) Represents life insurance premiums.
- (15) Represents a \$150,000 retention bonus.

(16) Mr. Kershaw joined the company in October 2016 with an annual base salary of \$425,000.

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

(18) Represents a signing bonus of \$50,000.

(19) Represents \$25,000 in one-time relocation expense reimbursement and \$5,000 in one-time temporary housing allowance. Also includes \$9 in life insurance premiums.

Outstanding Equity Awards as of December 31, 2017

The following table provides information regarding outstanding equity awards made to our named executive officers as of December 31, 2017.

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards			
	Exercisable	Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares of 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: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights that Have Not Vested (\$)(2)
Michael Barrett	—	686,160	\$ 5.80	3/17/2027	880,063 ⁽³⁾	1,645,718		
Frank Addante	40,748	48,158	\$ 13.16	2/17/2026				
	66,978	27,580	\$ 16.75	5/19/2025				
					43,438 ⁽⁴⁾	81,229		
					25,933 ⁽⁵⁾	48,495		
					12,500 ⁽⁶⁾	23,375		
							115,833 ⁽⁷⁾	216,608
							124,478 ⁽⁸⁾	232,774
							46,801 ⁽⁹⁾	87,518
David Day	—	32,167	\$ 6.06	3/15/2027				
	6,587	2,713	\$ 16.75	5/19/2025				
	140,000	—	\$ 7.80	4/24/2023				
					37,528 ⁽¹⁰⁾	70,177		
					16,875 ⁽¹¹⁾	31,556		
					7,844 ⁽¹²⁾	14,668		
					4,382 ⁽¹³⁾	8,194		
Thomas Kershaw	—	66,667	\$ 6.06	3/15/2027				
	14,583	35,417	\$ 7.72	11/15/2026				
					12,005 ⁽¹⁴⁾	22,449		
					77,778 ⁽¹⁵⁾	145,445		
					93,750 ⁽¹⁶⁾	175,313		

(1) The grant date of each stock option is ten years before the expiration date shown in the table, and 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 shortly following the first anniversary of the grant date 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 \$1.87, which was the closing market price of our common stock on December 29, 2017. 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 78,608 of such shares on May 15, 2018; with respect to 137,392 of such shares on each November 15 and May 15 thereafter until November 15, 2020; and with respect to 114,495 of such shares on May 15, 2021.

(4) These shares vest with respect to approximately 9,653 on each May 15 and November 15 through November 15, 2019, and with respect to 4,827 of such shares on May 15, 2020.

- (5) These shares vest with respect to 10,373 of such shares on each May 15 and November 15 through November 15, 2018, and with respect to 5,187 of such shares on May 15, 2019.
- (6) These shares vest on May 15, 2018.
- (7) These awards are Market Stock Awards (“MSAs”). The number of shares issued represents target levels, and the actual number of shares that may ultimately vest will be the product of the target number of shares and a performance factor determined as the quotient obtained by dividing the stock price on the measurement date by the stock price on the grant date. The measurement date for the MSAs is the first to occur of (i) February 1, 2019, (ii) the effective date of a change in control of the company, or (iii) the date of termination of continuous service as a result of the executive’s involuntary termination, death, or disability. If the performance factor is less than 50%, there is no vesting. If the performance factor is 150% or more, 50% of the number of target shares will vest. If the performance factor is at least 50% but less than 150%, the number of shares vesting will equal the product of the target shares and the performance factor. For this purpose, stock price appreciation is obtained by dividing the 20-day trailing average closing price of our common stock as of the measurement date by the 20-day trailing average closing price of our common stock as of the grant date, and is adjusted for stock splits and the like. In the event that the measurement date is the date of the executive’s involuntary termination, death or disability, and that date occurs prior to February 1, 2019, the number of target shares shall be pro-rated to reflect the period of service from the grant date prior to applying the performance factor.
- (8) These awards were MSAs that lapsed with no vesting as of April 15, 2018 due to failure to meet the applicable performance conditions.
- (9) These shares can become vested on a quarterly basis each February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15 over a seven-year performance period ending on May 15, 2021, or at the time of a change in control of the company, as a result of achievement of superior performance of the company’s common stock compared to the Nasdaq Internet Total Return index. If the shares become vested on a May 15 or November 15, or at the time of a change in control of the company, such awards are immediately fully earned. If the shares become vested on a February 15 or August 15, such awards are fully earned on the ensuing May 15 or November 15 based on further continued service until that date.
- (10) These shares vest with respect to 11,727 of such shares on May 15, 2018; with respect to 4,691 of such shares on each November 15 and May 15 thereafter through November 15, 2020; and with respect to 2,346 of such shares on May 15, 2021.
- (11) These shares vest with respect to 3,750 of such shares on each May 15 and November 15 through November 15, 2019 and with respect to 1,875 of such shares on May 15, 2020.
- (12) These shares vest with respect to 3,137 of such shares on May 15, 2018; with respect to 3,138 of such shares on November 15, 2018; and with respect to 1,569 of such shares on May 15, 2019.
- (13) These shares vest on May 15, 2018.
- (14) These shares vested on March 1, 2018.
- (15) These shares vest with respect to 24,306 of such shares on May 15, 2018; with respect to 9,722 of such shares on each November 15 and May 15 thereafter through November 15, 2020; and with respect to 4,862 of such shares on May 15, 2021.
- (16) 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 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 2017, 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; risk assessment under the company’s compensation programs; 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. 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.

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 consider various 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

Management assessed 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. In addition, the compensation committee oversees management's annual assessment of the risks associated with the company's compensation programs.

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 2017 Peer Group Approach. In the fall of 2016 (leading up to 2017 pay decisions) in response to our organizational changes and evolving outlook for the business in 2017, the compensation committee approved a new approach centered around one peer group of public companies using GAAP revenue as the key scoping measure. The

comparator group used for 2017 pay decisions included 18 public companies within the ad-tech industry and Internet software and services industry between \$125 million and \$800 million in revenues and market value between \$100 million and \$3.2 billion (generally market value to revenue ratios between 0.5x and 6.0x).

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 companies to reflect updated revenue forecasts for the company. As a result of this re-evaluation, seven companies used in the 2017 peer group were removed for the 2018 peer group. Those seven companies had either been acquired or had outsized revenue or market capitalization as compared to our company. Nine new companies were added; these companies were selected based on several criteria, including being similar sized as our company, being based in California or New York, and having a reasonably comparable business to ours. The resulting peer group had a median trailing twelve-month revenue of \$196 million.

Base Salaries

Base salaries for our named executive officers are designed to be competitive when compared with prevailing market rates 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.

Based on the data from the peer groups described above and other factors, the compensation committee set the annual base salaries for 2017 for Messrs. Barrett, Kershaw, Day, and Addante at \$515,000, \$425,000, \$400,000 (after giving effect to Mr. Day's promotion to CFO) and \$515,000, respectively. Mr. Barrett joined the company in March 2017, with an annual base salary of \$515,000, based upon market survey data and negotiations with Mr. Barrett. The compensation committee did not set base salaries for our named executive officers at any specific level against the peer group.

Incentive Compensation

Annual Incentive. During 2017, 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 2017, the target award opportunities were \$410,000 for Mr. Barrett, approximately \$275,000 for Mr. Kershaw, and approximately \$250,000 for Mr. Day. Mr. Addante was ineligible for cash incentive compensation for periods following his resignation as Chief Executive Officer in March 2017. For 2017, the performance measures and their weightings were 25% strategic and 75% financial, with the financial goals being 45% revenue and 30% adjusted EBITDA, and cash incentive awards of up to 200% 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. Actual cash incentive awards for the 2017 fiscal year were \$315,037, \$211,763, \$190,747 and \$105,822 for each of Messrs. Barrett, Kershaw, Day, and Addante, respectively. As a result of the company's performance in 2017, actual payout for each of the named executive officers other than Mr. Addante was 77% of the target amount. Mr. Addante's payout was at target for the portion of the year preceding his resignation as CEO.

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 March 2017, each of our named executive officers other than Mr. Addante and Mr. Barrett received grants of stock options and time-based restricted stock units. The aggregate target value determined as described above 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. Because of his importance to the continued success of the company and our turn-around efforts, Mr. Kershaw received an additional grant of 24,010 restricted stock units that vest over two years.

Mr. Addante did not receive any equity incentive awards due to the timing of the CEO leadership transition in early 2017. Mr. Barrett joined the company as CEO in March 2017 after the board of directors unanimously determined that Mr. Barrett's deep industry experience, track record, and leadership strengths made him the right person to lead the company through the difficult business transformation. As such, and through an arms-length negotiation, the board of directors determined that an initial equity grant of both time-based restricted and stock options was appropriate to induce Mr. Barrett to join the company as CEO and to provide a meaningful equity ownership in the company and ensure strong alignment with stockholder interests. In March 2017, Mr. Barrett was awarded 1,099,138 restricted stock units and 686,160 stock options with an exercise price of \$5.80, each vesting over four years based upon continued service. All of the options were underwater as of December 2017, and remain underwater as of September 14, 2018. For 2018, Mr. Barrett received a substantially smaller equity award grant, with a grant date fair value of approximately \$1.0 million, in line with the company's regular annual compensation philosophy and recognizing that Mr. Barrett's initial award in March 2017 was in special circumstances to induce him to join the company and provide strong alignment with stockholder interests through an initial, significant, equity stake in the company.

All 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.

See the table titled "Outstanding Equity Awards as of December 31, 2017" for more information with respect to these grants.

Special Retention Awards

In the first quarter of 2017, we restructured our management team, including hiring a new Chief Executive Officer and eliminating seven executive management roles. In an effort to retain and motivate certain remaining executive officers to undertake a turnaround of the company, the Compensation Committee authorized retention bonuses payable half on September 1, 2017 and half on March 1, 2018, subject to continued employment. Pursuant to these awards, Messrs. Kershaw and Day received cash retention awards of \$150,000 and \$100,000, respectively, on September 1, 2017, and Mr. Kershaw received 24,010 restricted stock units that vested with respect to one-half of the shares on September 1, 2017 and with respect to the other half on March 1, 2018.

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 time 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; 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 agreements with Messrs. Barrett, Kershaw, Day, and Addante 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), each such executive will be entitled to receive continuation of his then-current base salary for a specified period (12 months for Messrs. Barrett, Addante, 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 Messrs. Addante and 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 Messrs. Barrett, Addante, and Day and six months for Mr. Kershaw). With respect to the 2014 grant of performance-based restricted stock to Mr. Addante, the award will remain outstanding for an additional six months to determine whether any applicable performance goal is achieved during that period. With respect to the 2016 grant of Market Stock Awards to Mr. Addante, upon a termination of continuous service without cause or a resignation for good reason that occurs prior to and not in connection with a sale transaction, or upon the executive's death or disability, the measurement of stock price appreciation will occur as of such termination date and a pro-rata number of shares will be eligible to vest based on the number of days employed during the performance period. If the executive voluntarily terminates employment without "good reason", a pro-rata number of shares based on the number of days employed during the performance period that will be eligible to vest based on actual performance measured at the end of the full performance period. In connection with Mr. Addante's role change after the appointment of Mr. Barrett as President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Addante received \$515,000 in August 2017 as liquidation of the cash severance obligation contained in his severance agreement. Mr. Addante's employment ended on June 30, 2018.

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 have been increased to include full acceleration of vesting of all equity awards, improved reimbursement of group health plan premiums (12 months for Messrs. Barrett, Addante and Day and six months for Messrs. Kershaw), and, for Messrs. Barrett, Addante, and Day, additional cash severance equal to one year's target bonus for Messrs. Barrett and Day and \$515,000 for Mr. Addante. With respect to the 2014 grant of performance-based restricted stock to Mr. Addante, the performance period will terminate on the date immediately preceding the change in control and the Company will determine to what extent the performance-based restricted stock shall vest and become fully earned based on performance through such date based upon the value per share in the change in control transaction; any shares that are not vested and earned as of the date of the change in control will

remain outstanding until the earlier of (i) the termination of the named executive officer's employment for any reason; or (ii) May 15, 2021. If Mr. Addante's employment is terminated prior to May 15, 2021 by the company without cause or due to a resignation for good reason, the remaining outstanding shares will vest and become fully earned upon the date of such termination, regardless of performance. If Mr. Addante's termination occurs prior to May 15, 2021 and is for any other reason than as described in the preceding sentence, or on May 15, 2021, the remaining shares will be forfeited. With respect to the 2016 grants of Market Stock Awards to Mr. Addante, the measurement of stock price appreciation and corresponding vesting will occur as of the effective date of the sale transaction based on the effective value per share of our common stock in such transaction. 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.

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, 2017 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⁾	5,790,106	\$ 10.46	7,116,866 ⁽⁵⁾
Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Stockholders ⁽²⁾	2,179,591	\$ 3.80	716,641 ⁽⁶⁾
Total	7,969,697 ⁽³⁾	\$ 8.75	7,833,507

(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 4,362,213 shares to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options and 3,607,484 shares subject to outstanding unvested restricted stock units. Does not include 559,434 unvested restricted stock awards, which are included in outstanding shares.

(4) Represents the weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options. Shares subject to outstanding unvested restricted stock units become issuable upon vesting without any exercise price or other cash consideration required.

(5) Consists of 5,837,402 shares that were available for future issuance under the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan and 1,279,464 shares that were available for future issuance under the 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan as of December 31, 2017. On January 1, 2018, an additional 2,511,949 shares became available for future issuance under the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan pursuant to the plan's 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, 2017.

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 August 27, 2018 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 50,750,663 shares of our common stock outstanding as of August 27, 2018.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Shares of Common Stock ⁽²⁾	Percent
5% Stockholders		
Clearstone Venture Partners ⁽³⁾	3,075,794	6.1%
Named Executive Officers		
Frank Addante ⁽⁴⁾	1,797,550	3.5%
Michael Barrett ⁽⁵⁾	671,788	1.3%
Thomas Kershaw ⁽⁶⁾	104,506	*
David Day ⁽⁷⁾	233,557	*
Directors and Director Nominees		
Sumant Mandal ⁽⁸⁾	3,185,323	6.3%
Robert F. Spillane ⁽⁹⁾	116,703	*
Robert J. Frankenberg ⁽¹⁰⁾	116,703	*
Lisa L. Troe ⁽¹¹⁾	114,553	*
Lewis W. Coleman ⁽¹²⁾	71,026	*
All Current Executive Officers and Directors as a Group (14 persons) ⁽¹³⁾	6,559,583	12.7%

* 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 August 27, 2018. Shares not owned but which the individual has the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days of August 27, 2018 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/A filed with the SEC on February 13, 2018. Consists of (i) 3,010,692 shares of our common stock held by Clearstone Venture Partners III-A, LP, (ii) 53,819 shares of our common stock held by Clearstone Venture Partners III-B, and (iii) 11,283 shares of our common stock held by Clearstone Venture Management III, LLC. Clearstone Venture Management III, LLC is the general partner and managing member of both Clearstone Venture Partners III-A, LP and Clearstone Venture Partners III-B. Sumant Mandal is a managing member of Clearstone Venture Management III, LLC. The address for these entities is 725 Arizona Avenue, Suite 304, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

- (4) Includes 176,055 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable by Mr. Addante within 60 days of August 27, 2018, of which 172,351 were fully vested as of such date. Mr. Addante's beneficial ownership also includes: (i) 14,480 shares of unvested time-based restricted stock; (ii) 115,833 shares of MSAs; and (iii) 46,801 shares of performance-based restricted stock. For a description of the vesting provisions of the restricted stock awards and MSAs, see the footnotes to the table titled "Outstanding Equity Awards as of December 31, 2017." Excludes options to purchase 7,409 shares of common stock that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (5) Includes 271,605 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable by Mr. Barrett within 60 days of August 27, 2018, of which 243,015 were fully vested as of such date. Excludes options to purchase 714,555 shares of common stock and 1,151,455 restricted stock units that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (6) Includes 52,777 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable by Mr. Kershaw within 60 days of August 27, 2018, of which 47,916 were fully vested as of such date. Excludes options to purchase 150,557 shares of common stock and 432,708 restricted stock units that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (7) Includes 161,927 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable by Mr. Day within 60 days of August 27, 2018, of which 160,199 were fully vested as of such date, and 17,832 shares of unvested shares of time-based restricted stock. Excludes options to purchase 61,357 shares of common stock and 174,587 restricted stock units that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (8) Includes 77,071 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Mr. Mandal within 60 days of August 27, 2018, all of which were fully vested as of such date; and (ii) shares held by the Clearstone entities as disclosed in footnote 3 above. 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. Excludes options to purchase 9,429 shares of common stock that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018. Excludes 7,292 restricted stock units that will remain unvested within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (9) Includes 77,071 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Mr. Spillane within 60 days of August 27, 2018, all of which were fully vested as of such date. Excludes options to purchase 9,429 shares of common stock that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018. Excludes 7,292 restricted stock units that will remain unvested within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (10) Includes 77,071 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Mr. Frankenberg within 60 days of August 27, 2018, all of which were fully vested as of such date. Excludes options to purchase 9,429 shares of common stock that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018. Excludes 7,292 restricted stock units that will remain unvested within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (11) Includes 77,071 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Ms. Troe within 60 days of August 27, 2018, all of which were fully vested as of such date. Excludes options to purchase 9,429 shares of common stock that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018. Excludes 7,292 restricted stock units that will remain unvested within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (12) Includes 46,594 shares issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable by Mr. Coleman within 60 days of August 27, 2018, all of which were fully vested as of such date. Excludes options to purchase 9,429 shares of common stock that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018. Excludes 11,709 restricted stock units that will remain unvested within 60 days of August 27, 2018.
- (13) Includes: (i) 1,103,616 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018, of which 1,062,879 were fully vested as of such date; (ii) 32,312 shares of unvested time-based restricted stock; (iii) 115,833 shares of MSAs; and (iv) 46,801 shares of performance-based restricted stock. Excludes options to purchase 1,088,019 shares of common stock that are unvested and unexercisable within 60 days of August 27, 2018. Excludes 2,635,779 restricted stock units that will remain unvested within 60 days of August 27, 2018.

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 (i) on May 17, 2017, Gregory R. Raifman, our former President and a former board member, filed a Form 4 to report shares withheld on by the company on April 18, 2017 to cover his tax liability incurred upon the vesting of restricted shares; (ii) on September 28, 2017, Mr. Kershaw filed a Form 4 to report shares withheld by the company on September 1, 2017 to cover his tax liability incurred upon the vesting of restricted stock units; and (iii) on August 17, 2018, Mr. Addante filed a Form 4 to report shares withheld by the company on November 15, 2017 to cover his tax liability incurred upon the vesting of restricted stock and restricted stock units.

**STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS AND NOMINATIONS FOR
THE 2019 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 2018 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 May 17, 2019 to be considered for inclusion in the proxy statement for that meeting.

Under our bylaws, director nominations and other proposals at our 2019 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 June 26, 2019 and not later than the close of business on July 26, 2019. However, if the date of the 2019 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, 2017 as filed with the SEC on March 15, 2018, 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

September 14, 2018

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 October 24, 2018

Solicited on Behalf of the Board of Directors

The undersigned hereby appoints Blimo Tuller, David L. Day and Jonathan Feldman as proxies, each with the power to appoint his 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 August 27, 2018 at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 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



October 24, 2018

PROXY VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

INTERNET - Access "www.voteproxy.com" and follow the on-screen instructions or scan the QR code with your smartphone. Have your proxy card available when you access the web page.



TELEPHONE - Call toll-free **1-800-PROXIES** (1-800-776-9437) in the United States or **1-718-921-8500** from foreign countries from any touch-tone telephone and follow the instructions. Have your proxy card available when you call.

Vote online/phone until 11:59 PM EST the day before the meeting.

MAIL - Sign, date and mail your proxy card in the envelope provided as soon as possible.

IN PERSON - You may vote your shares in person by attending the Annual Meeting.

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.access.

COMPANY NUMBER	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	

NOTICE OF INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIAL:
 The Notice of Meeting, proxy statement and proxy card are available at <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/18899/>

↓ Please detach along perforated line and mail in the envelope provided you are not voting via telephone or the Internet. ↓

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" EACH OF THE NOMINEES IN PROPOSAL 1 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

1. Election of Directors:
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Frank Addante | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Robert J. Frankenberg | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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

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" each of the nominees in Proposal 1 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.