

SBA COMMUNICATIONS CORP

Form DEF 14A

April 07, 2017

[Table of Contents](#)

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**

**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**(Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

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))**

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

**SBA Communications Corporation**

**(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):

No fee 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:

Table of Contents

**SBA Communications Corporation**  
**8051 Congress Avenue**  
**Boca Raton, Florida 33487**

**NOTICE OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

April 7, 2017

Dear Shareholder:

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend SBA Communications Corporation's 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. local time at our corporate office, located at 8051 Congress Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33487. At the meeting, you will be asked to:

1. Elect two directors as follows: Steven E. Bernstein and Duncan H. Cocroft for a three-year term expiring at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.
2. Ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2017 fiscal year.
3. Approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers.
4. Approve, on an advisory basis, the frequency of future advisory votes on the compensation of our named executive officers.
5. Transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting.

Only shareholders of record as of the close of business on March 17, 2017 may vote at the Annual Meeting.

It is important that your shares be represented at the Annual Meeting, regardless of the number you may hold. *Whether or not you plan to attend, please vote using the Internet, by telephone or by mail, in each case by following the instructions in our proxy statement.* This will not prevent you from voting your shares in person if you are present.

I look forward to seeing you on May 18, 2017.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Bernstein  
Chairman of the Board

We mailed a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access our proxy statement and annual report on or about April 7, 2017.

**SBA's proxy statement and annual report are available online at [www.edocumentview.com/SBAC](http://www.edocumentview.com/SBAC).**

**Table of Contents****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>PROXY SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>Questions and Answers About Voting at the Annual Meeting and Related Matters</u>	3
<u>PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	8
<u>Nominees For Director</u>	9
<u>Directors Continuing in Office</u>	10
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	13
<u>Board Leadership Structure</u>	13
<u>Lead Independent Director</u>	13
<u>Corporate Governance Guidelines</u>	13
<u>Board Independence</u>	14
<u>Meetings</u>	15
<u>Board Committees</u>	15
<u>Executive Compensation Recoupment or Clawback Policy</u>	18
<u>Code of Ethics/Related Party Transaction Policy</u>	19
<u>Risk Management</u>	20
<u>Director Compensation</u>	21
<u>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	23
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	25
<u>Executive Summary</u>	25
<u>Compensation Philosophy and Objectives</u>	32
<u>Compensation Setting Process</u>	33
<u>Evaluating Compensation Program Design and Relative Competitive Position</u>	33
<u>Executive Compensation Components and 2016 Compensation Decisions</u>	36
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	46
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	47
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	47
<u>Grants of Plan-Based Awards</u>	48
<u>Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table</u>	49
<u>Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End</u>	50
<u>Option Exercises and Stock Vested</u>	51
<u>Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control</u>	52
<u>PROPOSAL 2 RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS</u>	57
<u>PROPOSAL 3 ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	61
<u>PROPOSAL 4 ADVISORY VOTE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE ADVISORY VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	63
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP</u>	64
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	67
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	67

<u>Shareholder Proposals and Director Nominations for 2018 Annual Meeting</u>	67
<u>List of Shareholders Entitled to Vote at the Annual Meeting</u>	67
<u>Expenses Relating to this Proxy Solicitation</u>	68
<u>Communication with SBA's Board of Directors</u>	68
<u>Available Information</u>	68
<u>Electronic Delivery</u>	69
<u>Householding</u>	69
<u>EXHIBIT A: GAAP to Non-GAAP Reconciliations</u>	A-1

**Table of Contents****PROXY SUMMARY**

*This proxy summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this proxy statement and does not contain all information that you should review and consider. Please read the entire proxy statement with care before voting.*

**2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. local time  
**Place:** 8051 Congress Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33487  
**Record Date:** March 17, 2017  
**Voting:** Each share of SBA Class A common stock outstanding at the close of business on March 17, 2017 has one vote on each matter that is properly submitted for a vote at the annual meeting.

**PROPOSALS AND BOARD RECOMMENDATION**

<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>Board Recommendation</b>	<b>Page Reference (for more details)</b>
Election of Directors	FOR each director nominee	8
Ratification of EY as Auditors	FOR	57
Advisory vote on executive compensation	FOR	61
Advisory vote on frequency of future votes on compensation of named executive officers	FOR the option of every one year	63

**2016 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2016, SBA continued to deliver steady financial and operational results, and we once again led the tower industry in Tower Cash Flow Margin, Adjusted EBITDA Margin and AFFO Per Share. Highlights include:

<b>(dollars in millions)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Total revenue	\$ 1,527	\$ 1,638	\$ 1,633
Net Income (loss)	\$ (24)	\$ (176)	\$ 76
AFFO <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	\$ 680	\$ 734	\$ 761
Tower Count	24,292	25,465	26,197





---

**Table of Contents**

**PROXY SUMMARY**

(1) For 2016, Adjusted EBITDA, AFFO and AFFO Per Share are presented net of the Oi Reserve. See Exhibit A for more information.

(2) See reconciliation of GAAP to Non-GAAP financial measures in Exhibit A to this proxy statement. This performance has contributed to our ability to create significant shareholder value. As the chart below demonstrates, for the five year period ended December 31, 2016, our Total Shareholder Return ( TSR ) was approximately 140%, exceeding the TSR of the NASDAQ Composite Index (approximately 120%) and the large public tower company peer group (approximately 100%).

For more information relating to SBA's financial performance, please review our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the SEC on March 1, 2017.

**GOVERNANCE AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Our strong corporate governance practices and executive compensation standards include:

*Meaningful proxy access right for shareholders. (Page 18)*

*Robust executive compensation recoupment or clawback policy. (Page 18)*

*Lead independent director to ensure independent oversight. (Page 13)*

*Directors and officers are subject to rigorous stock ownership guidelines. (Page 44)*

*90% of our CEO's pay and an average of 84.5% of our other named executive officers' target total compensation is at-risk or performance-based. (Page 28)*

*Majority voting standard and director resignation policy in uncontested elections. (Page 8)*

*Executives prohibited from pledging shares that are subject to the stock ownership requirements and strictly prohibited from hedging any shares. (Page 44)*

*Board conducts annual self-evaluation to determine effective functioning. (Page 14)*

2 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents**

**SBA Communications Corporation**

**8051 Congress Avenue**

**Boca Raton, Florida 33487**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**Proxy Statement for Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 18, 2017**

You are receiving this proxy statement because you own shares of our Class A common stock that entitle you to vote at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Our Board of Directors is soliciting proxies from shareholders who wish to vote at the meeting. By use of a proxy, you can vote even if you do not attend the meeting. This proxy statement describes the matters on which you are being asked to vote and provides information on those matters so that you can make an informed decision.

**Date, Time and Place of the 2017 Annual Meeting**

We will hold the 2017 Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. local time at our corporate offices located at 8051 Congress Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33487.

**Questions and Answers About Voting at the Annual Meeting and Related Matters**

***Q: Who may vote at the Annual Meeting?***

**A:** You may vote all of the shares of our Class A common stock that you owned at the close of business on March 17, 2017, the record date. On the record date, there were 121,235,809 shares of our Class A common stock outstanding and entitled to be voted at the meeting. You may cast one vote for each share of our Class A common stock held by you on all matters presented at the meeting.

***Q: What constitutes a quorum, and why is a quorum required?***

**A:** We are required to have a quorum of shareholders present to conduct business at the meeting. The presence at the meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote on the record date will constitute a quorum, permitting us to conduct the business of the meeting. Proxies received but marked as abstentions, if any, will be included in the calculation of the number of

shares considered to be present at the meeting for quorum purposes. If we do not have a quorum, we will be forced to reconvene the Annual Meeting at a later date.

***Q: What is the difference between a shareholder of record and a beneficial owner?***

**A:** If your shares are registered directly in your name with SBA's transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., you are considered the shareholder of record with respect to those shares. If your shares are held by a brokerage firm, bank, trustee or other agent (nominee), you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (Notice) has been forwarded to you by your nominee who is considered, with respect to those shares, the shareholder of record. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your nominee on how to vote your shares by following their instructions for voting by telephone or on the Internet or, if you specifically request a copy of the printed materials, you may use the voting instruction card included in such materials.

**SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement 3**

**Table of Contents**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED MATTERS**

***Q: How do I vote?***

**A:** If you are a shareholder of record, you may vote:

via Internet;

by telephone;

by mail, if you have received a paper copy of the proxy materials; or

in person at the meeting.

Detailed instructions for Internet and telephone voting are set forth on the Notice, which contains instructions on how to access our proxy statement and annual report online. You may also vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

If you are a beneficial shareholder, you must follow the voting procedures of your nominee included with your proxy materials. If your shares are held by a nominee and you intend to vote at the meeting, please bring with you evidence of your ownership as of the record date (such as a letter from your nominee confirming your ownership or a bank or brokerage firm account statement).

***Q: What am I voting on?***

**A:** At the Annual Meeting you will be asked to vote on the following four proposals. Our Board recommendation for each of these proposals is set forth below.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Board Recommendation</b>
1. To elect Steven E. Bernstein and Duncan H. Cocroft as directors for a three-year term expiring at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.	<b>FOR each director nominee</b>
2. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP ( EY ) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2017 fiscal year.	<b>FOR</b>

3. To approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers, which we refer to as Say on Pay. **FOR**

4. To approve, on an advisory basis, the frequency of future Say on Pay votes, which we refer to as Say on Frequency. **FOR the option of every one year**

We will also consider other business that properly comes before the meeting in accordance with Florida law and our Bylaws.

***Q: What happens if additional matters are presented at the Annual Meeting?***

**A:** Other than the items of business described in this proxy statement, we are not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. If you grant a proxy, the persons named

4 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents****QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED MATTERS**

as proxy holders, Steven E. Bernstein and Jeffrey A. Stoops, will have the discretion to vote your shares on any additional matters properly presented for a vote at the meeting in accordance with Florida law and our Bylaws.

**Q:** *What if I abstain on a proposal?*

**A:** If you sign and return your proxy marked `abstain` on any proposal, your shares will not be voted on that proposal. However, your shares will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

**Q:** *What is the required vote for approval of each of the proposals and what is the impact of abstentions?*

**A:** A proposal has received a majority of the votes cast if the votes cast `FOR` a proposal exceed the votes cast `AGAINST` a proposal. In addition, we intend to evaluate the advisory proposals, Proposal 3 and Proposal 4, using the same standard. Consequently, abstentions will have no impact on the results, as they are not counted as votes cast.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Votes Required for Approval</b>	<b>Abstentions</b>
1. Election of Directors	Majority of votes cast	No impact
2. Ratification of EY as Auditors	Majority of votes cast	No impact
3. Say on Pay	Majority of votes cast	No impact
4. Say on Frequency	Majority of votes cast for option	No impact

**Q:** *What is the effect of the advisory votes on Proposal 3 and Proposal 4?*

**A:** Proposals 3 and 4 are advisory votes. This means that while we ask shareholders to approve resolutions regarding Say on Pay and Say on Frequency, these are not actions that require shareholder approval. If a majority of votes are cast `FOR` the Say on Pay proposal, we will consider the proposal to be approved. Abstentions are not counted as votes `FOR` or `AGAINST` this proposal. For the Say on Frequency proposal, we will consider that the shareholders have recommended whichever option (three, two or one year) that receives the greatest number of votes cast. Although the vote on these proposals are non-binding, our Board and its Compensation Committee will review the results of the vote and take them into account in making determinations concerning executive compensation and the frequency of such advisory votes.

***Q:*** *What if I sign and return my proxy without making any selections?*

**A:** If you sign and return your proxy without making any selections, your shares will be voted FOR Proposals 1, 2 and 3, and FOR the one year option in Proposal 4. If other matters properly come before the meeting, Steven E. Bernstein and Jeffrey A. Stoops will have the authority to vote on those matters for you at their discretion. As of the date of this proxy, we are not aware of any matters that will come before the meeting other than those disclosed in this proxy statement.

**SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement 5**



**Table of Contents****QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED MATTERS**

**Q:** *What if I am a beneficial shareholder and I do not give the nominee voting instructions?*

**A:** If you are a beneficial shareholder and your shares are held in the name of a broker, the broker is bound by the rules of the New York Stock Exchange regarding whether or not it can exercise discretionary voting power for any particular proposal if the broker has not received voting instructions from you. Brokers have the authority to vote shares for which their customers do not provide voting instructions on certain routine matters. A broker non-vote occurs when a nominee who holds shares for another does not vote on a particular item because the nominee does not have discretionary voting authority for that item and has not received instructions from the owner of the shares. Broker non-votes are included in the calculation of the number of votes considered to be present at the meeting for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum but are not counted as votes cast with respect to a matter on which the nominee has expressly not voted.

The table below sets forth, for each proposal on the ballot, whether a broker can exercise discretion and vote your shares absent your instructions and if not, the impact of such broker non-vote on the approval of the proposal.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Can Brokers Vote Absent Instructions?</b>	<b>Impact of Broker Non-Vote</b>
1. Election of Directors	No	None
2. Ratification of EY as Auditors	Yes	Not Applicable
3. Say on Pay	No	None
4. Say on Frequency	No	None

**Q:** *Can I change my vote after I have delivered my proxy?*

**A:** Yes. You may revoke your proxy at any time before its exercise. You may also revoke your proxy by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. If you are a beneficial shareholder, you must contact your nominee to change your vote or obtain a proxy to vote your shares if you wish to cast your vote in person at the meeting.

**Q:** *Who can attend the Annual Meeting?*

**A:** Only shareholders and our invited guests are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. To gain admittance, you must bring a form of personal identification to the meeting, where your name will be verified against our

shareholder list. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares and you plan to attend the meeting, you should bring a recent brokerage statement showing your ownership of the shares as of the record date, a letter from the broker confirming such ownership, and a form of personal identification.

***Q:*** *If I plan to attend the Annual Meeting, should I still vote by proxy?*

**A:** Yes. Casting your vote in advance does not affect your right to attend the Annual Meeting. If you vote in advance and also attend the meeting, you do not need to vote again at the meeting unless you want to change your vote. Written ballots will be available at the meeting for shareholders of record.

6 [SBA Communications Corporation](#) | [2017 Proxy Statement](#)

**Table of Contents**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED MATTERS**

Beneficial shareholders who wish to vote in person must request a legal proxy from the broker or other nominee and bring that legal proxy to the Annual Meeting.

***Q: Where can I find voting results of the Annual Meeting?***

**A:** We will announce the results for the proposals voted upon at the Annual Meeting and publish final detailed voting results in a Form 8-K filed within four business days after the Annual Meeting.

***Q: Who should I call with other questions?***

**A:** If you have additional questions about this proxy statement or the meeting or would like additional copies of this proxy statement or our annual report, please contact: SBA Communications Corporation, 8051 Congress Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33487, Attention: Investor Relations, Telephone: (561) 995-7670.

**SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement 7**

**Table of Contents****PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS****Introduction**

Our Bylaws permit the Board of Directors to set the size of the Board. Our Board of Directors currently consists of eight directors. For the size and scope of our business and operations, we believe a board of approximately this size is appropriate as it is small enough to allow for effective communication among the members but large enough so that we get a diverse set of perspectives and experiences around our board room.

Our Board of Directors is currently divided into three classes. We believe that the classified Board is the most effective way for the Board to be organized because it ensures a greater level of certainty of continuity from year-to-year which provides stability in organization and experience. As a result of the three classes, at each Annual Meeting, directors are elected for a three-year term. Class terms expire on a rolling basis, so that one class of directors is elected each year.

Our current directors and classifications are as follows:

<b>Class I</b>	<b>Class II</b>	<b>Class III</b>
Brian C. Carr	Kevin L. Beebe	Steven E. Bernstein
Mary S. Chan	Jack Langer	Duncan H. Cocroft
George R. Krouse, Jr.	Jeffrey A. Stoops	

The terms of the two current Class III directors expire at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee ( NCG Committee ) has recommended that Steven E. Bernstein and Duncan H. Cocroft, each a current Class III director, be nominated for re-election for a three-year term expiring at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Each of Messrs. Bernstein and Cocroft has consented to serve if elected.

Our Bylaws provide that, in uncontested elections, directors will be elected by a majority of the votes cast, and in contested elections, directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast. Our Bylaws further provide that a director who is not elected by a majority of the votes cast in an uncontested election must tender his or her resignation to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, taking into consideration the recommendation of the NCG Committee, will then decide whether to accept or reject the resignation, or whether other action should be taken.

We believe that each of our directors possesses the experience, skills and qualities to fully perform his or her duties as a director and contribute to SBA's success. Our directors were nominated because each is of high ethical character, highly accomplished in his or her field with superior credentials and recognition, has a reputation, both personal and professional, that is consistent with SBA's image and reputation, has the ability to exercise sound business judgment, and is able to dedicate sufficient time to fulfilling his or her obligations as a director. Our directors as a group complement each other and each of their respective experiences, skills and qualities so that collectively the Board operates in an effective, collegial and responsive manner. Each director's principal occupation and other pertinent information about particular experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led the Board to conclude that such

person should serve as a director, appears on the following pages.

8 **SBA Communications Corporation** | **2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS> NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR**

**Nominees For Director**

**Class III Directors**

**For Terms that Expire at the 2020 Annual Meeting**

**Steven E. Bernstein**

Director since: **1989**

Chair

Age: **56**

**Qualifications.** The Board nominated Mr. Bernstein to serve as a director of the Board because of his extensive senior management and operational experience in the wireless communications industry, including as the founder and first President and Chief Executive Officer of SBA.

Mr. Bernstein, our founder, has served as our Chair since our inception in 1989 and was our Chief Executive Officer from 1989 to 2001. Mr. Bernstein is also involved in a number of personal commercial real estate investments. Mr. Bernstein has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Real Estate from the University of Florida. Mr. Bernstein was previously a visiting professor at Lynn University, and serves on the boards of various local charities.

**Duncan H. Cocroft**

Director since: **2004**

Independent

Age: **73**

Committees:

Mr. Cocroft is a private investor who retired in March 2004 from Cendant Corporation, a provider of consumer and business services primarily in the travel and real estate services industries. Mr. Cocroft was Executive Vice President Finance and Treasurer of Cendant and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of PHH Corporation, Cendant's wholly-owned finance subsidiary. Prior to joining Cendant in June 1999, Mr. Cocroft served as Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and Principal Financial Officer of Kos Pharmaceuticals, where he was responsible for finance, information systems and human resources. His other prior senior management positions include Vice

Audit (Chair)                      President    Finance and Chief Financial Officer of International Multifoods, an operator of food manufacturing businesses in the U.S. and Canada, and Vice  
Compensation                      President and Treasurer of Smithkline Beckman, a pharmaceutical company.  
Mr. Cocroft previously served on the Board of Directors of Visteon Corporation, a global automotive supplier company, from October 2010 to June 2016.

***Qualifications.*** The Board nominated Mr. Cocroft to serve as a director of the Board because of his past experience as a Chief Financial Officer and other financial oversight positions at large, global public companies, as well as other senior management experience including responsibility for information systems and human resources.

**Table of Contents****PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS** > **DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE****Directors Continuing in Office****Class I Directors****Terms Expire at the 2018 Annual Meeting****Brian C. Carr**Director since: **2004**

Independent

Age: **55**

Committees:

Audit

Compensation

In addition to being a private investor and strategic advisor to numerous companies, since January 2014, Mr. Carr has served as non-executive Chairman, and from March 2012 to December 2013 as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, of Regional Diagnostic Laboratories, Inc., a company founded by a large private equity firm to invest in various types of domestic and international medical laboratories. In October 2016, Mr. Carr joined the board of privately held Acuamark Diagnostics, Inc. (formerly iCareDx, Inc.), a biotechnology company formed with a leading scientist from Cornell which is developing various blood-based tests for the early detection of certain cancers. Mr. Carr was co-founder and previously served as Chief Executive Officer and a director of OralDNA Labs, a privately held diagnostic company to the dental profession which was acquired by Quest Diagnostics, one of the nation's largest laboratory providers. Mr. Carr was also a co-founder and previously served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American Esoteric Laboratories, a company engaged in advanced clinical laboratory testing until it was acquired by publicly-held Sonic Healthcare Limited. Prior to that, Mr. Carr was President and a director of AmeriPath, Inc., a publicly-traded anatomic pathology company. Mr. Carr has previous experience in Big Four public accounting firms as well as international consulting in Brazil and China. He is a CPA (inactive) and CMA (Certified Management Accountant inactive).

**Qualifications.** The Board nominated Mr. Carr to serve as a director of the Board because of his experience in founding, growing and managing public and private companies, including extensive mergers and acquisitions experience, both domestically and internationally. The Board also recognized his accounting and financial experience gained initially through a Big Four public accounting firm and enhanced through his public and private company senior management positions.



**Mary S. Chan**

Director since: **2015**

Independent

Age: **54**

Committees:

Audit

Nominating and Corporate  
Governance

Ms. Chan is a telecommunications executive and has over 25 years of extensive global management experience in the telecommunications and wireless technology industries. Ms. Chan co-founded and since February 2016 has served as Managing Partner of VectoIQ, LLC, a consulting firm focused on Smart transportation product and services. From May 2012 to April 2015, Ms. Chan served as President, Global Connected Consumer & OnStar Service, at General Motors Corporation, where she led the development and execution of General Motors' strategic global infotainment plans, including the launch of 4G LTE connectivity across its global portfolio of vehicle brands. From September 2009 to March 2012, Ms. Chan served as Senior Vice President and General Manager, Enterprise Mobility Solutions & Services, at Dell Inc., where she helped expand Dell's mobility product and service offerings. From December 2000 to August 2009, Ms. Chan

**Table of Contents****PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS> DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE**

held various senior vice president positions at Alcatel-Lucent and Lucent Technologies, including the positions of Executive Vice President, President of 4G/LTE Wireless Networks and Executive Vice President, President of Global Wireless Networks. Prior to Alcatel-Lucent/Lucent Technologies, Ms. Chan worked at AT&T Network Systems focusing on product and platform development of 2G and 3G wireless systems. Ms. Chan also serves on the Boards of Directors of Microelectronics Technology, Inc., a technology company specializing in wireless communication product development, manufacturing and global sales, Dialog Semiconductor PLC, a manufacturer of semiconductor based system solutions, and WiTricity Corporation, a private company focused on wireless charging solutions.

**Qualifications.** The Board nominated Ms. Chan to serve as a director of the Board because of her extensive experience in the telecommunications and wireless technology industries. The Board also recognized her management experience gained through various senior management positions at large multinational companies.

**George R. Krouse, Jr.**

Director since: **2009**

Independent

Age: **71**

Committees:

Nominating and Corporate  
Governance (Chair)

Compensation

Mr. Krouse, an attorney, retired in December 2007 after spending 37 years at the law firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, where he practiced in the corporate, capital markets and merger and acquisition areas. While at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, Mr. Krouse served as Head of the Corporate Department, Senior Administrative Partner and was a member of the Executive Committee of the firm. Mr. Krouse also serves on the Board of Visitors at Duke University School of Law and is a 2002 recipient of the Law School's Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2006, he was appointed a Senior Lecturing Fellow at Duke University School of Law.

**Qualifications.** The Board nominated Mr. Krouse to serve as a director of the Board because of his years and depth of experience as a securities and M&A partner at a major law firm, where he counseled large companies on matters of corporate governance, risk oversight, capital markets, general business matters and acquisition transactions, as well as his senior financial and business management experience at this same firm.

## Class II Directors

### Terms Expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting

#### Kevin L. Beebe

Director Since: **2009**

Independent

Age: **58**

Committees:

Audit

Nominating and Corporate  
Governance

Since November 2007, Mr. Beebe has been President and Chief Executive Officer of 2BPartners, LLC, a partnership that provides strategic, financial and operational advice to investors and management. Previously he was Group President of Operations at ALLTEL Corporation, a telecommunications services company, from 1998 to 2007. From 1996 to 1998, Mr. Beebe served as Executive Vice President of Operations for 360° Communications Co., a wireless communications company. Mr. Beebe also serves on the Board of Directors of Skyworks Solutions, Inc., a semiconductor company, and on the Board of Directors of NII Holdings, Inc., a wireless service provider. In addition, Mr. Beebe is a founding partner in Astra Capital, a private equity firm.

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS> DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE**

**Qualifications.** The Board nominated Mr. Beebe to serve as a director of the Board because of his executive and management experience, and in particular his extensive experience in telecommunications.

**Jack Langer**

Director since: **2004**

Independent

Age: **68**

Committees:

Nominating and Corporate  
Governance

Compensation (Chair)

Lead Independent Director

**Qualifications.** The Board nominated Mr. Langer to serve as a director of the Board because of his management and advisory experience with national and global companies as well as his vast experience in investment banking, including his experience in raising capital for companies and mergers and acquisitions.

**Jeffrey A. Stoops**

Director since: **1999**

President, Chief Executive  
Officer and Director

Mr. Stoops joined SBA in April 1997 and has served as a director of SBA since August 1999. Mr. Stoops was appointed Chief Executive Officer effective as of January 2002, President in April 2000, and previously served as our Chief Financial Officer.

Age: **58**

**Qualifications.** The Board nominated Mr. Stoops to serve as a director of the Board because of his current and prior senior executive and financial management experience at SBA, his operational knowledge and experience at SBA and his business and competitive knowledge of the wireless infrastructure industry.

### **Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** the director nominees.

12 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

**Board Leadership Structure**

As stated in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Board has not adopted a formal policy regarding the need to separate or combine the offices of Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer and instead the Board remains free to make this determination from time to time in a manner that seems most appropriate for SBA. Currently, SBA separates the positions of CEO and Chair in recognition of the differences between the two roles. The CEO is responsible for the strategic direction of SBA and the day to day leadership and performance of SBA, while the Chair provides guidance to the CEO, sets the agenda for the Board meetings and presides over meetings of the Board. In addition, SBA believes that the current separation provides a more effective monitoring and objective evaluation of the CEO's performance. The separation also allows the Chair to strengthen the Board's objective oversight of SBA's performance and governance standards.

**Lead Independent Director**

In order to facilitate and strengthen the Board's independent oversight of SBA's performance, strategy and succession planning and to uphold effective governance standards, the Board has established the role of a lead independent director. SBA's Corporate Governance Guidelines establish that in the event the Chair is not an independent director, the independent directors of the Board shall, upon recommendation of the NCG Committee and by majority vote of independent directors, appoint a lead independent director.

The lead independent director's duties, which are listed in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, include:

presiding at all executive sessions of the independent directors and Board meetings at which the Chair is not present;

serving as liaison between the Chair and the independent directors;

approving the Board meeting agendas and schedules and the subject matter of the information to be sent to the Board;

the authority to call meetings of the independent directors;

ensuring he or she is available for consultation and direct communication if requested by major shareholders; and

performing such other duties as the Board deems appropriate.

Mr. Langer currently serves as SBA's lead independent director.

### **Corporate Governance Guidelines**

The Board of Directors has voluntarily adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines describe our corporate governance practices and policies and provide a framework for our Board governance. The topics addressed in our Corporate Governance Guidelines include director independence, director qualifications, committee membership and structure,

**Table of Contents**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

shareholder communications with the Board, director compensation and the annual performance evaluation of the Board. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide, among other things, that:

In the event the Chair is not an independent director, the independent directors of the Board will, upon recommendation of the NCG Committee, appoint a lead independent director;

A majority of directors of the Board must be independent as defined by the NASDAQ Listing Standards;

No director may serve on more than two public company boards in addition to SBA's Board without prior consultation with the Chair of the NCG Committee;

The Board will have, at all times, an Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and NCG Committee (the Committees), and each of their members will be independent as defined by the NASDAQ Listing Standards and applicable SEC rules;

The Board will appoint all members of the Committees;

The Board will conduct an annual self-evaluation to determine whether it and its Committees are functioning effectively;

Each director nominee must agree to tender his or her resignation for consideration by the Board if such director fails to receive a majority of votes cast in any uncontested re-election;

No executive officer or director may pledge any shares of SBA's Class A common stock that count toward satisfying such executive officer's or director's ownership requirement as set forth in the Stock Ownership Guidelines; and

No executive officer or director may enter into hedging arrangements with respect to any shares of SBA's Class A common stock.

From time to time, the NCG Committee will review our Corporate Governance Guidelines, and, if necessary, will recommend changes to the Board. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines, which were most recently revised on May 21, 2015, are available to view at our website, [www.sbsite.com](http://www.sbsite.com), under the Investor Relations Corporate Governance



section.

## Board Independence

Pursuant to our Corporate Governance Guidelines, we require that a majority of our Board of Directors and all members of our three standing Committees be comprised of directors who are independent, as such term is defined in the listing standards of the NASDAQ Global Select Market (the NASDAQ Listing Standards). Each year, the Board undertakes a review of director independence, which includes a review of each director's responses to questionnaires asking about any relationships with us. This review is designed to identify and evaluate any transactions or relationships between a director or any member of his or her immediate family and us, or members of our senior management or other members of our Board of Directors, and all relevant facts and circumstances regarding any such transactions or relationships. Consistent with these considerations, our Board has affirmatively determined that all of our non-management director nominees, who are listed below, are independent.

> Kevin L. Beebe	> Brian C. Carr	> Mary S. Chan
> Duncan H. Cocroft	> George R. Krouse, Jr.	> Jack Langer

**Executive Sessions.** The independent members of the Board of Directors generally meet in executive session at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

## Table of Contents

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **Meetings**

During 2016, the Board of Directors held a total of 7 meetings. Each incumbent director attended at least 75% of the aggregate of (1) the total number of meetings of the Board during the period in which he or she was a director and (2) the total number of meetings of all Committees on which he or she served during the period in which he or she was a director. It is the policy of the Board of Directors to encourage its members to attend SBA's Annual Meeting of Shareholders. All members of the Board of Directors in 2016 were present at SBA's 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

#### **Board Committees**

The Board has three standing Committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the NCG Committee. Copies of the Committee charters of each of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the NCG Committee setting forth the respective responsibilities of the Committees can be found under the Investor Relations Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.sbsite.com](http://www.sbsite.com), and such information is also available in print to any shareholder who requests it through our Investor Relations department. We periodically review and revise the Committee charters. The Board most recently adopted a revised Audit Committee Charter on February 24, 2016, revised Compensation Committee Charter on July 28, 2015 and revised NCG Committee Charter on July 28, 2016.

#### **Audit Committee**

#### **Number of Meetings in 2016: 6**

**Responsibilities.** The Audit Committee is responsible for establishing our audit policies, selecting our independent auditors and overseeing the engagement of our independent auditors. The Audit Committee Chair reports on Audit Committee actions and recommendations at Board of Director meetings.

**Independence and Financial Expertise.** The Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee meets the independence requirements under the NASDAQ Listing Standards and the enhanced independence standards for audit committee members required by the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ). In

addition, the Board of Directors has determined that each of Messrs. Beebe, Carr and Cocroft meets the requirements of an audit committee financial expert under SEC rules. For information regarding Mr. Beebe's, Mr. Carr's and Mr. Cocroft's business experience, see Proposal 1 Election of Directors.

## Compensation Committee

### Number of Meetings in 2016: 5

**Responsibilities.** The Compensation Committee is responsible for establishing salaries, incentives and other forms of compensation for our Chief Executive Officer, each of our executive officers (our Executive Vice Presidents) and our Chief Accounting Officer (collectively, the Officer Group), the terms of any employment agreements with the Officer Group and compensation for our directors. In addition, the Compensation Committee is responsible for administering our equity-based compensation plans, including awards under such plans, and our Stock Ownership Guidelines. The Compensation Committee is also responsible for the oversight and administration of our Executive Compensation

---

**Table of Contents****CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Recoupment Policy. The Compensation Committee also reviews the results of any advisory shareholder votes on executive compensation and considers whether to recommend adjustments to our executive compensation policies and practices as a result of such votes. The Compensation Committee Chair reports on Compensation Committee actions and recommendations at Board of Director meetings.

***Role of Compensation Consultants and Advisors.*** The Compensation Committee has the authority, pursuant to its charter, to engage the services of outside legal or other experts and advisors as it in its sole discretion deems necessary and appropriate to assist the Compensation Committee in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities. For 2016, the Compensation Committee again selected and retained F.W. Cook & Co., Inc. ( FW Cook ), an independent management compensation consulting firm, and instructed FW Cook to provide the Compensation Committee with a review of competitive market data for each member of the Officer Group, and to work directly with the Compensation Committee to prepare proposals for 2016 executive compensation and director compensation. In addition, in 2016 the Compensation Committee again selected and retained Chadbourne & Parke LLP ( Chadbourne & Parke ), a law firm which provides compensation consulting services. Neither FW Cook nor Chadbourne & Parke performed any services for us other than their services to the Compensation Committee. We believe that the use of independent consultants provides additional assurance that our programs are reasonable and consistent with our objectives. The Compensation Committee reviewed the independence of each of FW Cook and Chadbourne & Parke in light of the SEC rules and NASDAQ Listing Standards regarding compensation consultants and has concluded that neither FW Cook's work nor Chadbourne & Parke's work for the Compensation Committee during 2016 raised any conflict of interest and that each of FW Cook and Chadbourne & Parke is independent.

***Role of Management and Delegation of Authority.*** As more fully discussed under Compensation Discussion and Analysis Evaluating Compensation Program Design and Relative Competitive Position, our CEO provides the Compensation Committee with (1) evaluations of each named executive officer, including himself, and (2) recommendations regarding base salary levels for the upcoming year for each named executive officer (other than himself), an evaluation of the extent to which the named executive officer met his annual incentive plan target, and the aggregate total long-term incentive value that each named executive officer (other than himself) should receive. Our CEO typically attends all regularly-scheduled Compensation Committee meetings to assist the Compensation Committee in its discussion and analysis of the various agenda items, and is generally excused from the meetings as appropriate, including for discussions regarding his own compensation. The Compensation Committee may delegate to SBA's management the authority to administer incentive compensation and benefit plans provided for employees, including the authority to grant awards to certain recipients under our equity-based compensation plans, as it deems appropriate and to the extent permitted by applicable laws, rules, regulations and NASDAQ Listing Standards.

***Independence.*** The Board reviewed the background, experience and independence of the Compensation Committee members based primarily on the directors' responses to questions relating to their relationships, background and experience. Based on this review, the Board determined that each member of the Compensation Committee meets the independence requirements of the NASDAQ Listing Standards, including the heightened independence requirements specific to compensation committee members.

***Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation.*** During the 2016 fiscal year, Messrs. Carr, Cocroft, Krouse and Langer served as members of the Compensation Committee, and none of these directors was, during 2016,

an officer or employee of SBA, or formerly an officer of SBA.

16 **SBA Communications Corporation** | **2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

There were no transactions during the 2016 fiscal year between SBA and any of the directors who served as members of the Compensation Committee for any part of the 2016 fiscal year that would require disclosure by SBA under the SEC's rules requiring disclosure of certain relationships and related-party transactions.

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee**

**Number of Meetings in 2016: 5**

***Responsibilities.*** The NCG Committee is responsible for (i) soliciting, considering, recommending and nominating candidates to serve on the Board under criteria adopted by it from time to time; (ii) nominating a lead independent director in the event the Chair is not an independent director; (iii) recommending to the Board whether to accept or reject the resignation tendered by a director who failed to receive a majority of votes cast in any uncontested re-election; (iv) advising the Board with respect to Board composition and procedures and Committee composition, function, structure, procedures and charters; (v) overseeing periodic evaluations of the Board and the Committees, including establishing criteria to be used in connection with such evaluations; (vi) reviewing and reporting to the Board on a periodic basis with regard to matters of corporate governance; and (vii) developing and reviewing succession planning for Board members and executive officers. The NCG Committee is also responsible for considering and recommending to the Board the approval of any waivers to SBA's Code of Conduct (as defined below) for a director or executive officer. The NCG Committee Chair reports on NCG Committee actions and recommendations at Board of Director meetings.

***Consideration of Director Nominees.*** The NCG Committee considers possible candidates for nominees for directors from many sources, including management and shareholders. The NCG Committee evaluates the suitability of potential candidates nominated by shareholders in the same manner as other candidates recommended to the NCG Committee, in accordance with the Criteria for Nomination to the Board of Directors, which is attached as Annex A to the NCG Committee charter. The Criteria for Nomination to the Board of Directors contains the following requirements, among others, for suitability:

high ethical character and a reputation that is consistent with SBA's reputation;

superior credentials;

current or prior experience as a CEO, President or CFO of a public company or leading a complex organization;

relevant expertise and experience;

the number of other boards (and their committees) on which a candidate serves;

the ability to exercise sound business judgment; and

the lack of material relationships with competitors or other third parties that could present realistic possibilities of conflict of interest or legal issues.

The NCG Committee Charter requires, and the Criteria for Nomination provides, that, when considering nominees for the Board, the NCG Committee should seek to provide a diversity and balance among directors of race, gender, geography, thought, viewpoints, background, skills, experience and expertise. Further, the NCG Committee Charter requires that any search firm retained to assist the NCG Committee in seeking candidates for the Board be instructed to seek to include

**Table of Contents**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

diverse candidates in terms of the Criteria for Nomination from, among other areas, the traditional corporate environment, government, academia, private enterprise, non-profit organizations, and professions such as accounting, finance, marketing, human resources, and legal services.

The NCG Committee identifies nominees by first evaluating the current members of the Board willing to continue in service. Current members of the Board with skills and experience that are relevant to SBA's business and who are willing to continue in service are considered for re-nomination, balancing the value of continuity of service by existing members of the Board with that of obtaining a new perspective. If any member of the Board does not wish to continue in service or if the NCG Committee or the Board decides not to re-nominate a member for re-election, the NCG Committee identifies the desired skills and experience of a new nominee in light of the Criteria for Nomination. Current members of the NCG Committee and Board are polled for suggestions as to individuals meeting the Criteria for Nomination of the NCG Committee. In addition, from time to time, the NCG Committee has engaged, and may in the future engage, the services of executive search firms to assist the NCG Committee and the Board of Directors in identifying and evaluating potential director candidates.

***Shareholder Nominations of Director Candidates.*** On January 12, 2017, we amended our Bylaws to make certain changes to the previously approved proxy access right that permits shareholders to nominate directors for inclusion in our proxy statement under certain circumstances. Following shareholder approval of a non-binding proposal to amend our proxy access bylaw, our Board adopted amendments to our Bylaws to include, among others, the following changes:

Reduce from 5% to 3% the amount of shares that must be continuously owned for at least three years in order to nominate a director utilizing the proxy access provisions;

Eliminate the limitation on the number of eligible shareholders that can form a group for purposes of meeting the ownership threshold;

Increase from 20% of the board of directors to 25% of the board of directors the maximum number of board candidates that may be nominated by means of proxy access; and

Eliminate the restriction on eligible shareholders to nominate a new proxy access candidate if their prior proxy access candidate(s) failed to receive at least 25% of the votes cast at any of the last three annual shareholder meetings.

Shareholders who wish to nominate directors for inclusion in our proxy statement or directly at an annual meeting in accordance with the procedures in our Bylaws should follow the instructions under Shareholder Proposals and Director Nominations for 2018 Annual Meeting in this proxy statement.



## **Executive Compensation Recoupment or Clawback Policy**

In 2014, the Board adopted the Executive Compensation Recoupment or Clawback Policy (the Recoupment Policy ), which covers all our executive officers (the Covered Officers ), and applies to incentive compensation paid or awarded commencing in the 2014 fiscal year. Under the Recoupment Policy, in the event of (1) a restatement of SBA's financial results due to the material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws or (2) a determination by the Compensation Committee that a financial, operational or other metric upon which incentive-based compensation was paid or awarded was inaccurate, in either case regardless of fault, the Compensation Committee will review the impact, if any, of such events on the incentive compensation paid or awarded to the Covered Officers. If the Compensation Committee determines that a Covered

18 [SBA Communications Corporation](#) | [2017 Proxy Statement](#)

**Table of Contents**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Officer was paid or awarded more than he or she would have been paid or awarded absent the financial restatement or inaccurate performance metrics, then the Compensation Committee may, to the extent permitted by applicable law, seek to recover such excess compensation. This recovery may include repayment by the Covered Officer, forfeiture of unvested restricted stock units and unvested stock options, offset against any severance payable to such Covered Officer, and other legal or equitable remedies that might be available to SBA. Incentive-based compensation paid or awarded during the three years preceding any financial restatement or inaccurate performance metrics is subject to recoupment.

**Code of Ethics/Related Party Transaction Policy**

The Board of Directors has adopted our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers ( Code of Ethics ) and our Code of Conduct for Directors, Officers and Employees ( Code of Conduct ), each of which we periodically revise to reflect best corporate governance practices and changes in applicable rules.

**Code of Ethics.** Our Code of Ethics sets forth standards of conduct applicable to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer to promote honest and ethical conduct, proper disclosure in SBA's periodic filings, and compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations. Our Code of Ethics is available to view at our website, [www.sbasite.com](http://www.sbasite.com), under the Investor Relations Corporate Governance section. We intend to provide disclosure of any amendments or waivers of our Code of Ethics on our website within four business days following the date of the amendment or waiver.

**Code of Conduct/Related Party Transaction Policy.** Our Code of Conduct requires directors, officers and all other employees to conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest. Our Code of Conduct generally requires (i) officers and directors to disclose any outside activities, financial interests or relationships that may present a possible conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict to the General Counsel and (ii) employees to disclose any outside activities, financial interests or relationships that may present a possible conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict to their immediate supervisor. The General Counsel will determine if any such outside activities, financial interests or relationships constitute a conflict of interest and a related person transaction on a case-by-case basis and will promptly disclose such activities, interests or relationships to the appropriate Committee for their review and appropriate action, if necessary. It is our preference to avoid related person transactions generally. Under applicable NASDAQ rules, all related person transactions must be approved by our Audit Committee or another independent body of the Board of Directors. Current SEC rules define transactions with related persons to include any transaction, arrangement or relationship (i) in which SBA is a participant, (ii) in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and (iii) in which any executive officer, director, director nominee, beneficial owner of more than 5% of SBA's Class A common stock, or any immediate family member of such persons has or will have a direct or indirect material interest. All directors must recuse themselves from any discussion or decision affecting their personal, business or professional interests. All related person transactions will be disclosed in our applicable SEC filings as required under SEC rules.

***No Related Party Transactions in 2016.*** Since January 1, 2016, we have not had any relationships or transactions with any of our executive officers, directors, beneficial owners of more than 5% of our Class A common stock or any immediate family member of such persons that were required to be reported pursuant to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

**Table of Contents**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

**Risk Management**

**Board Role in Management of Risk**

The Board is actively involved in the oversight and management of risks that could affect SBA. This oversight and management is conducted primarily through Committees, as disclosed in the descriptions of each of the Committees above and in the charters of each of the Committees, but the full Board has retained responsibility for general oversight of risks. The NCG Committee is responsible for annually reviewing and delegating the risk oversight responsibilities of each Committee and ensuring that each Committee should be primarily responsible for that oversight. The Audit Committee is primarily responsible for overseeing the risk management function, specifically with respect to management's assessment of risk exposures (including risks related to liquidity, credit, operations, regulatory compliance and information systems), and the processes in place to monitor and control such exposures. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Audit Committee works closely with Internal Audit and other members of SBA's enterprise risk management team. In addition, each of the Committees of the Board consider the risks within their areas of responsibility. The Board satisfies its oversight responsibility through full reports by each Committee chair regarding the Committee's considerations and actions, as well as through regular reports directly from officers responsible for oversight of particular risks within SBA.

**Compensation Risks**

In early 2017, as part of our risk management process, we conducted an annual comprehensive review and evaluation of our compensation programs and policies. The assessment covered each material component of executive and non-executive employee compensation. In evaluating our compensation components, we took into consideration the following risk-limiting characteristics:

Bonus payout under our incentive plan is capped at the target opportunity, whether or not SBA significantly exceeds the incentive plan metrics;

A significant percentage of our overall pay mix is equity-based, which, when combined with the vesting terms and our Stock Ownership Guidelines, aligns our executive officers' interests with shareholders' interests and minimizes the taking of inappropriate or excessive risk that would impair the creation of long-term shareholder value;

We have effective management processes for establishing key financial and operating targets, and monitoring financial and operating metrics;

We have effective monitoring by external and internal audit;

We have effective segregation of duties throughout SBA;

Our Board approves the parameters of acquisition transactions that contribute towards target performance;

We have established processes in place for the approval of new build projects and to confirm the completion of new tower construction; and

Our Stock Ownership Guidelines require officers and directors to hold any vested restricted stock until the aggregate amount of their stock ownership exceeds a multiple of their annual base salary or retainer, as applicable.

**Table of Contents**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

**Director Compensation**

**General.** The Board maintains a compensation arrangement for the non-employee directors of the Board. The Board compensation arrangement is comprised of the following types and levels of compensation:

**Initial Equity Grant.** Each newly elected independent director, defined as a director who is a non-employee director pursuant to Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), at the time of such initial election, is entitled to receive a grant of non-qualified stock options. Newly elected directors are entitled to receive a grant of non-qualified stock options to purchase 10,000 shares of Class A common stock with a per share exercise price equal to the fair market value per share of such stock at the grant date. These options vest and become exercisable in equal annual installments on each of the first five anniversaries of the grant date so long as the director continues to serve as a member of our Board of Directors.

**Annual Equity Grant.** At each annual meeting, non-employee directors receive an equity grant with an aggregate grant date value of \$135,000. The annual equity grant to non-employee directors is comprised of two-thirds restricted stock units and one-third stock options. The aggregate grant date value is calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, except that the stock price used in the calculation will be a derived price equal to the average closing price of our Class A common stock in the two calendar months of March and April. The restricted stock units and stock options vest and become exercisable on the first, second and third year anniversary of their grant. In addition to the acceleration provisions provided under the relevant equity plan, annual equity grants to directors immediately vest if a director resigns from the board of directors, provided the director has completed three full years of service as a director prior to the effective date of such resignation.

Pursuant to this policy, on May 13, 2016, each non-employee director of the Board was granted 907 restricted stock units, which represents a contingent right to receive 907 shares of Class A common stock. In addition, on May 13, 2016, each non-employee director of the Board was granted stock options to purchase 2,308 shares of Class A common stock with an exercise price of \$100.00 per share, the closing price of the Class A common stock on May 13, 2016. The restricted stock units and stock options vest and become exercisable in three equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date or the day immediately prior to the annual meeting of shareholders in each of 2017, 2018 and 2019.

***Retainer and Fees Paid in Cash.*** Each non-employee director is entitled to receive an annual retainer of \$75,000 payable in cash for service as a director. The Chair of the Board and the lead independent director are entitled to an additional retainer of \$25,000, while the Chairs of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the NCG Committee are entitled to an additional retainer of \$20,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Non-employee directors are also reimbursed for incidental expenses associated with each Board of Directors and/or Committee meeting. Other than the Chair of each of the Committees, directors who serve on any of the Committees of the Board of Directors described above do not receive any additional compensation for their services as a Committee member.

During 2016, each of Ms. Chan and Messrs. Beebe, Bernstein, Carr, Cocroft, Krouse and Langer received the annual cash compensation for his or her service as a director. Additionally, Mr. Cocroft received the annual cash compensation for his service as Audit Committee Chair, Mr. Langer received the annual cash compensation for his service as

**Table of Contents****CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Compensation Committee Chair and as lead independent director, Mr. Krouse received the annual cash compensation for his service as NCG Committee Chair, and Mr. Bernstein received the annual cash compensation for his service as Chair of the Board. Directors who are employees do not receive any additional compensation for their services as a director.

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation of our non-employee directors for 2016. Mr. Stoops, our Chief Executive Officer and President, is omitted from the table as he does not receive any additional compensation for his services as a director.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash			Option Awards (\$) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Total (\$)
	(\$)	Stock Awards (\$) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>			
Steven E. Bernstein	\$ 100,000	\$ 90,700	\$ 45,132	\$ 235,832	
Kevin L. Beebe	75,000	90,700	45,132	210,832	
Brian C. Carr	75,000	90,700	45,132	210,832	
Duncan H. Cocroft	95,000	90,700	45,132	230,832	
George R. Krouse, Jr.	85,000	90,700	45,132	220,832	
Mary S. Chan	75,000	90,700	45,132	210,832	
Jack Langer	115,000	90,700	45,132	250,832	

(1) Grants of restricted stock units and stock options were made on May 13, 2016, in connection with the annual grant discussed above. The amounts in the **Stock Awards** column and the **Option Awards** column reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of awards for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. For additional information on the valuation assumptions regarding the fiscal 2016 grants, refer to Note 14 in our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, which is included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC.

(2) The following table sets forth the aggregate number of restricted stock units and unexercised stock options outstanding at December 31, 2016 for each of our non-employee directors.

Name	Aggregate Number of Restricted Stock Units Outstanding at December 31, 2016	Aggregate Number of Unexercised Stock Options Outstanding at December 31, 2016
------	---	--



Edgar Filing: SBA COMMUNICATIONS CORP - Form DEF 14A

Steven E. Bernstein	1,708	14,108
Kevin L. Beebe	1,708	24,108
Brian C. Carr	1,708	7,682
Mary S. Chan	1,405	14,207
Duncan H. Cocroft	1,708	14,108
George R. Krouse, Jr.	1,708	12,075
Jack Langer	1,708	8,408

22 [SBA Communications Corporation](#) | [2017 Proxy Statement](#)

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Set forth below is certain information relating to our current executive officers and key employees. Biographical information with respect to Mr. Stoops is set forth above under Proposal 1 Election of Directors.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jeffrey A. Stoops	58	President and Chief Executive Officer
Brendan T. Cavanagh	45	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Kurt L. Bagwell	52	Executive Vice President and President International
Mark R. Ciarfella	51	Executive Vice President Operations
Thomas P. Hunt	59	Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel
Jason V. Silberstein	48	Executive Vice President Site Leasing
Brian D. Lazarus	45	Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer
Brian Allen	49	Senior Vice President Site Leasing
Jorge Grau	54	Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Jo Carol Rutherford	60	Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer
Neil H. Seidman	50	Senior Vice President Mergers and Acquisitions

***Brendan T. Cavanagh, CPA***, has served as our Executive Vice President since January 2014 and Chief Financial Officer since September 2008. Prior to serving as Executive Vice President, from September 2008 to December 2013, Mr. Cavanagh served as our Senior Vice President. Mr. Cavanagh joined SBA in 1998 and has held various positions, including serving as Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer from June 2004 to September 2008 and Vice President Site Administration from January 2003 to June 2004. Prior to joining us, Mr. Cavanagh was a senior accountant with Arthur Andersen LLP.

***Kurt L. Bagwell*** has served as our Executive Vice President and President International since January 2014. From October 2010 to December 2013, Mr. Bagwell served as our Senior Vice President and President International. Mr. Bagwell joined SBA in February 2001 as Vice President of Network Services and served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from January 2002 to October 2010. Prior to joining us, Mr. Bagwell served as Vice President Site Development for Sprint PCS.

***Mark R. Ciarfella*** has served as our Executive Vice President Operations since January 2014. From October 2010 to December 2013, Mr. Ciarfella served as our Senior Vice President Operations. Mr. Ciarfella joined SBA in July 2007 as our Vice President Tower Development. From 1997 to 2007, Mr. Ciarfella was the co-owner of a Florida based site development services company that provided site acquisition, zoning, construction management and program management services to the wireless telecommunication industry and was a partner in a communication tower company that specialized in building towers in the State of Florida. Mr. Ciarfella has more than 14 years of experience in the wireless telecommunication industry working directly with PrimeCo Personal Communications and as a consultant for multiple other carriers.

***Thomas P. Hunt*** has served as our Executive Vice President since January 2014, General Counsel since September 2000 and Chief Administrative Officer since May 2007. Prior to serving as Executive



**Table of Contents**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Vice President, from September 2000 to December 2013, Mr. Hunt served as our Senior Vice President. Prior to joining SBA, Mr. Hunt was a partner with Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A., a South Florida law firm, where he practiced for 16 years in the corporate and real estate areas. Mr. Hunt is a member of the Florida Bar.

**Jason V. Silberstein** has served as our Executive Vice President – Site Leasing since January 2014. From February 2009 to December 2013, Mr. Silberstein served as our Senior Vice President – Property Management. Mr. Silberstein joined SBA in 1994 and has held various positions with us, including Vice President – Property Management from April 2000 to February 2009.

Below is a summary of the business experience of each of our key employees.

**Brian D. Lazarus, CPA**, has served as our Senior Vice President since January 2014 and Chief Accounting Officer since September 2008. Prior to serving as Senior Vice President, from September 2008 to December 2013, Mr. Lazarus served as our Vice President. Mr. Lazarus joined SBA in October 2006 and served as SBA’s Controller from October 2006 to September 2008. Prior to joining SBA, Mr. Lazarus was the Corporate Controller for AllianceCare, a privately owned multi-state health care organization, from December 2003 until October 2006. Mr. Lazarus previously was a Senior Audit Manager with Ernst & Young LLP and spent six years with KPMG LLP.

**Brian Allen** has served as our Senior Vice President of Site Leasing since January of 2014, and is responsible for site marketing and tower space sales of SBA owned and managed towers sites in the United States. Prior to serving as our Senior Vice President, from July 2011 to December 2013, Mr. Allen served as our Vice President. Mr. Allen originally joined SBA in January 1992, and has served in a variety of roles, including Project Director, Area Director and General Manager. In addition to his service at SBA, he served as a Business Development Manager for TowerCo, an independent wireless tower company, and as an independent consultant providing site development services to wireless service providers and public utility companies.

**Jorge Grau** has served as our Senior Vice President since January 2014 and Chief Information Officer since January 2006. Prior to serving as our Senior Vice President, from January 2006 to December 2013, Mr. Grau served as our Vice President. Mr. Grau joined SBA in August 2003 as the Vice President of Information Technology. Prior to joining SBA, from July 2002 through August 2003, Mr. Grau was Director of Information Technology for Vision Care Holdings and, from August 1989 to May 2002, Mr. Grau served as Chief Information Officer of Bentley’s Luggage Corporation.

**Jo Carol Rutherford** has served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer since January 2014. Ms. Rutherford joined SBA in July 2001 as Vice President of Human Resources. Prior to joining SBA, Ms. Rutherford spent 9 years with Invacare Corporation, an ISO certified manufacturer of home health care products. From 1998 until 2001, she was Corporate Director of Human Resources for Dixon Ticonderoga where she managed all HR functions to include collective bargaining, plant consolidations and organization restructuring. Ms. Rutherford is certified by the Society for Human Resource Management as a Senior Certified Professional.

**Neil H. Seidman** has served SBA in merger and acquisition activity since June 1997. From June 1997 to December 2001, Mr. Seidman served as our Director of Acquisitions and Associate General Counsel. From January 2002 to

December 2008, Mr. Seidman served as our primary outside mergers and acquisitions counsel as a partner in the law firm of Seidman, Prewitt, DiBello & Lopez, P.A. On January 1, 2009, Mr. Seidman rejoined SBA as our Vice President Mergers and Acquisitions. Since January 2014, Mr. Seidman has served as our Senior Vice President Mergers and Acquisitions. Mr. Seidman is a member of the Florida, New York, Maryland and Washington D.C. bars.

24 [SBA Communications Corporation](#) | [2017 Proxy Statement](#)

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**Introduction**

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis is designed to provide our shareholders with a clear understanding of our compensation philosophy and objectives, compensation-setting process, and the 2016 compensation of our named executive officers, or NEOs. As discussed in Proposal 3 on page 61, we are conducting a Say on Pay vote this year that requests your approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers as described in this section and in the tables and accompanying narrative contained in Executive Compensation. As part of that vote, you should review our compensation philosophies, the design of our executive compensation programs and how, we believe, these programs have contributed to the strong financial performance that SBA has provided to shareholders over the long term.

Our named executive officers are those executive officers listed below:

<b>Jeffrey A. Stoops</b>	President and Chief Executive Officer
<b>Brendan T. Cavanagh</b>	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
<b>Kurt L. Bagwell</b>	Executive Vice President and President, International
<b>Thomas P. Hunt</b>	Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel
<b>Jason V. Silberstein</b>	Executive Vice President, Site Leasing

**Executive Summary**

***We Have Delivered Strong Shareholder Value-Creating Results***

Our primary focus is the creation of shareholder value. We take a long-term view of our business, and we believe that growth in AFFO per share has the greatest impact on shareholder value creation. This metric underscores the strength of our business and long-term recurring cash flow potential of SBA. In order to maximize growth in AFFO per share, during the past five years we have focused on Adjusted EBITDA growth, same-tower organic growth, margin enhancements, portfolio growth on attractive terms, optimizing our capital structure, and a disciplined approach to capital allocation.

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The following graphs illustrate our strong performance over the past five years.

(1) Annualized Adjusted EBITDA for the fourth quarter-ended. See Appendix A for reconciliation of Non-GAAP Metric.

(2) For 2016, excludes the Oi Reserve. See Appendix A for reconciliation of Non-GAAP Metric.

(3) See Appendix A for reconciliation of Non-GAAP Metric.

(4) See Appendix A for reconciliation of Non-GAAP Metric.

We believe that these financial results have resulted in our delivery of significant long-term shareholder value, reflected through our TSR growth of 140% over a five-year period compared to increases in TSR of 98% for the S&P 500, 100% for our public tower company competitors, American Tower and Crown Castle, 76% for the FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITS Index and 88% for our 2016 Peer Group over that same five-year period.

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

While we focus on long-term shareholder value creation, our shareholders have been rewarded over the short-term as well. For the twelve months ended February 28, 2017, our share price appreciated 22.3%.

***Our Executive Compensation Program Is Responsive to Shareholders***

During the last six annual Say-On-Pay advisory votes on the compensation of our named executive officers, our shareholders overwhelmingly approved of our executive compensation program. As set forth below, over 98% of the votes cast on the proposal were cast in favor of our executive compensation program in each of the last six years.

**Shareholders Who Approved the Compensation  
of our Named Executive Officers**

The Compensation Committee believes these levels of shareholder approval indicate strong support for SBA's executive compensation program and therefore continued the philosophy, principles and basic framework utilized in 2015 for our 2016 executive compensation program.

**SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement 27**



**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2017, in response to compensation governance trends, our Compensation Committee committed to requiring that all future grants of equity to officers be subject to double-trigger acceleration. Specifically, the vesting of future grants will only be accelerated after a change in control to the extent that the employment of such officers is terminated without cause or the officer resigns for good reason in connection with such change in control. Additionally, our CEO has voluntarily agreed to retroactively apply this double-trigger acceleration provision to his outstanding equity awards.

***We Pay for Performance***

The core of our executive compensation philosophy is that our executives' pay should be linked to the performance of SBA. Accordingly, our executives' compensation is heavily weighted toward compensation that is performance-based or equity-based. For 2016, 90% of our CEO's target total compensation and an average of 84.5% of our other NEOs' target total compensation was performance-based or equity-based. As a result, our executives only recognize value approaching their target compensation when our shareholders have recognized value.

To illustrate this, in the tables that follow, we compare the target total direct compensation for our CEO in each of the last three fiscal years (Table 1) to the corresponding amounts that were paid or that may be considered realizable (based on the methodology described below) as of December 31, 2016 (Table 2).

Table 1 below presents our CEO's salary, incentive bonus opportunity at the target level and stock awards and option awards for each of the last three fiscal years. In Table 1, the stock award and option award amounts reflect the grant date fair value of each such award at the target level, the same value at which such awards are calculated under GAAP and are required to be reflected in the Summary Compensation Table included in this Proxy Statement under applicable SEC regulations. Our executives' compensation for each of the years below consisted of a base salary, an annual incentive bonus and long-term equity awards that vest over a four-year period.

**Table 1 Target Total Direct Compensation – CEO**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Annual Incentive</b>	<b>Stock Awards (\$)</b>	<b>Option Awards (\$)</b>	<b>Target Total Direct Compensation</b>
2016	\$ 750,000	\$ 937,500	\$ 1,903,302	\$ 3,868,283 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 7,459,085 <sup>(1)</sup>
2015	\$ 750,000	\$ 937,500	\$ 2,004,279	\$ 3,990,141 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 7,681,920 <sup>(1)</sup>
2014	\$ 700,000	\$ 875,000	\$ 1,701,103	\$ 3,419,919	\$ 6,696,022
3-Year Totals	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 5,608,684	\$ 11,278,343	\$ 21,837,028

- (1) The actual amounts of LTI Value approved by the Compensation Committee is set forth in this CD&A below under 2016 Long-Term Incentive Target Value.

28 [SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement](#)

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Table 2 below illustrates how our performance affected payouts and realization of the target total direct compensation that was available to our CEO.

**Table 2 Total Direct Compensation That May Be Considered Realizable at 12/31/2016 as a Percentage of Target Total Direct Compensation CEO**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Annual Incentive<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Stock Awards (\$)<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Option Awards (\$)<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>Realizable Total Direct Compensation</b>
2016	\$ 750,000	\$ 562,500	\$ 2,034,945	\$ 1,346,782	\$ 4,694,226
2015	\$ 750,000	\$ 609,000	\$ 1,661,144	\$	\$ 3,020,144
2014	\$ 700,000	\$ 820,750	\$ 1,838,751	\$ 1,356,839	\$ 4,716,340
3-Year Totals	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 1,992,250	\$ 5,534,839	\$ 2,703,621	\$ 12,430,710
Percent of Corresponding Amount in Table 1	<b>100%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>57%</b>

- (1) This column shows the portion of the target-level annual incentive in Table 1 that was actually paid to our CEO in each of the last three fiscal years. Due to the level of achievement in comparison to the performance objectives that were part of our annual incentive compensation program, payouts to our CEO over the past three fiscal years amounted to approximately 72% of the aggregate target annual incentive award for such period.
- (2) Stock awards for fiscal 2016, 2015 and 2014 are valued based on the closing market price per share of our common stock on December 30, 2016 of \$103.26 per share.
- (3) For purposes of this table, option awards are valued at the difference between the exercise price and the closing market price per share of our common stock on December 30, 2016. For options granted during 2015, the value is reflected at zero because these options have an exercise price that is greater than the closing market price for a share of our common stock on December 30, 2016. While our CEO may realize value on such option awards in the future, the value realized, if any, will depend on the extent to which there is appreciation in the market price of our common stock.



**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*Our Performance Metrics Drive Shareholder Value*

We reward financial, operational and qualitative corporate metrics that we believe will drive long-term shareholder value appreciation. For 2016, our annual incentive bonus for our CEO and each of our NEOs was based:

50% on SBA achieving target Annualized Adjusted EBITDA, and

50% on the achievement of selected financial and operational metrics for which such officer has oversight and responsibility (the Key Metrics ) and which the Committee believes will drive shareholder value. For 2016, the quantitative Key Metrics were:

AFFO Per Share	Number of new tower builds
Financial and operational performance of SBA's international operations	Leasing results on owned towers
Site Development Segment Performance	Tower Acquisitions
Tower Expenses	Ground Lease Purchases and Extensions
Capital Allocation and Financings	

In addition, the Committee evaluates the contribution of each NEO to our achievement of such results, including cross-departmental collaboration, succession planning and improved business processes and communications, and executive performance.

In 2016, as in prior years, the budget performance level of our financial and operational metrics were set at or above our 2015 results. By setting our budget performance level, which only entitles an executive to 50% to of the amount of bonus earnable for the applicable performance metric, at above the prior year's actual results the Compensation Committee ensures that NEOs only achieve target compensation if we provide our shareholders strong financial growth for the year.

Target annual incentive compensation was held flat for our NEO's in 2016 compared to 2015, notwithstanding the higher performance requirements in 2016 to earn such compensation.

Table of Contents

## COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS &gt; EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Our strong corporate governance policies further align our executives' interests with those of our shareholders.*

**What We Do****What We Do Not Do**

**Strong stock ownership guidelines** 6x base salary for CEO and 3x for other NEOs

**Robust clawback policy that exceeds Sarbanes-Oxley** Applies to cash and equity incentive compensation and permits recoupment as a result of a financial restatement or determination that the metric upon which incentive compensation was paid was inaccurate, regardless of fault

**Double trigger change in control provisions** in employment agreements

**Double trigger in a change of control for acceleration of equity granted to officers after 2017 and all outstanding equity awards to our CEO**

**Reduced severance multiple for termination without cause** not associated with change in control

**Annual incentive awards capped at 100% target annual bonus opportunity**

**Annual incentive bonus tied to performance metrics designed to deliver long-term growth and drive shareholder value**

**Multi-year vesting of all equity awards**

**Compensation Committee composed entirely of independent directors**

**Independent compensation consultants**, report directly to Compensation Committee and provide no other services to Company

**Comprehensive annual assessment of compensation risks**

**Limited perquisites** All Other Compensation represented 1.5% of CEO's 2016 Base Salary

**No acceleration of vesting of equity awards in connection with terminations**, absent a change in control

No pledging of shares subject to stock ownership requirements

**No hedging of shares**

**No tax gross-ups on perquisites or change in control benefits**

**No pension or supplemental retirement benefits**

**No Repricing or Buy-Outs of stock options** without shareholder approval

**No stock options granted below fair market value**

**No multi-year guaranteed bonuses**

**No liberal change of control definition in equity plan or employment agreements**

**Equity Plan does not permit liberal share recycling**

We encourage you to read this Compensation Discussion and Analysis for a detailed discussion and analysis of our executive compensation program, including information about the 2016 compensation of the named executive officers.



**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES****Compensation Philosophy and Objectives**

The Compensation Committee believes that the caliber and motivation of all our employees, and especially our executive leadership, are essential to SBA's performance. The Compensation Committee believes our management compensation programs contribute to our ability to differentiate our performance from others in the marketplace and thereby deliver shareholders superior value. Moreover, we believe that SBA's overall executive compensation philosophy and programs are market competitive, performance-based and shareholder aligned. The three principles of our compensation philosophy are as follows:

**Principles**

Total direct compensation levels should be sufficiently competitive to attract, motivate and retain the highest quality executives

Performance-based and at-risk incentive compensation should constitute a substantial portion of total compensation

Long-term incentive compensation should align executives' interests with our shareholders' interests to further the creation of long-term shareholder value

**Implementation**

Our Compensation Committee seeks to establish target total direct compensation (salary, annual incentive and long-term incentive) at up to 110% of the target total direct compensation at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (or median) of our Peer Group, providing our executives the opportunity to be competitively rewarded for our financial, operational and stock price growth. Total direct compensation opportunity (i.e., maximum achievable compensation) should increase with position and responsibility.

We seek to foster a pay-for-performance culture, with a significant portion of total direct compensation being performance-based and/or at risk. Accordingly, such portion should be tied to, and vary with, our financial, operational and stock price performance, as well as individual performance. We view two components of our total compensation program—annual incentive compensation and equity-based compensation—as being performance-based and/or at risk. Executives with greater responsibilities and the ability to directly impact our strategic and operational goals and long-term results should bear a greater proportion of the risk if these goals and results are not achieved. Therefore, the more senior the executive the greater the percentage of total compensation is in the form of performance-based and/or at risk compensation.

Awards of equity-based compensation encourage executives to focus on our long-term growth and prospects and incentivize executives to manage our company from the perspective of owners with a meaningful stake, and to encourage them to remain with us for long and productive careers. Our stock ownership guidelines further enhance the incentive to create long-term shareholder value. Equity-based compensation also subjects our executives to market risk, a risk also borne by our shareholders.



This philosophy is the basis of the Compensation Committee's decisions regarding each of the following three components of pay: base salary, annual incentive compensation and equity-based compensation, each of which is discussed in detail below.

The Compensation Committee does not decrease total direct compensation based upon realized or unrealized gains from prior compensation nor does it increase or decrease total direct compensation to compensate for stock price fluctuations. The Compensation Committee believes that doing so would

32 [SBA Communications Corporation](#) | [2017 Proxy Statement](#)

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION SETTING PROCESS**

reduce the motivation for continued high achievement and lower the correlation to gains or losses of our shareholders. Similarly, our severance and change-in-control arrangements, which we discuss later in this proxy statement under the heading Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control on page 52, have not affected the Compensation Committee's decisions regarding other components of compensation. Those arrangements serve very specific purposes that are unrelated to the determination of an NEO's total direct compensation for a specific year.

In determining annual incentive compensation, the Compensation Committee calculates the actual results during the year on a constant currency basis (utilizing the budgeted exchange rates to eliminate the impact of movements in foreign currency) due to the belief that an individual should not benefit nor be penalized as a result of movements in foreign currency that are outside their control. No adjustments are made to equity-based compensation for movements in foreign currency exchange rates, consistent with the impact of such movements to our shareholders.

**Compensation Setting Process**

Annually, the Compensation Committee evaluates SBA's executive compensation program design and competitiveness. As discussed above under the responsibilities of the Compensation Committee on page 16, the Compensation Committee has authority to retain compensation consultants, outside legal counsel and other advisors as it deems appropriate to assist in fulfilling its responsibilities. For 2016, the Compensation Committee selected and retained F.W. Cook & Co., Inc. (FW Cook) to:

review those companies that comprise our Peer Group and propose changes if necessary;

provide a competitive analysis of our compensation components for our NEOs against our 2016 Peer Group;

assist in the design of the executive compensation program and the determination of 2016 compensation for our NEOs;

perform a competitive analysis of compensation levels for non-employee directors and provide recommendations for our director compensation program; and

review the Compensation Discussion and Analysis in the annual proxy statement.

FW Cook does not perform any other services for SBA other than its consulting services to the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee has reviewed the independence of FW Cook in light of new SEC rules and NASDAQ Listing Standards regarding compensation consultants and has concluded that FW Cook's work for the Compensation Committee during 2016 did not raise any conflict of interest and that FW Cook is independent.

### **Evaluating Compensation Program Design and Relative Competitive Position**

At the beginning of the executive compensation setting process each year, the Compensation Committee, in consultation with its independent compensation consultant, determines the process by which it will ensure that SBA's executive compensation is competitive. For 2016, the Compensation Committee selected, with the recommendation of FW Cook, a group of peer companies from both the communications-related industry and the real estate investment trust (REIT) industry (the 2016 Peer Group). The Compensation Committee decided to use companies from these two industries as it believes that each of these two industries have business characteristics that are similar to our business. Two of the communications-related peer companies have also elected REIT status.

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > PROGRAM DESIGN AND COMPETITIVE POSITION**

(American Tower Corporation and Crown Castle International Corporation). The 2016 Peer Group is comprised of 20 companies, 10 from each industry, that were of similar size relative to SBA based on available public information in late 2015. The primary size measures used in selecting companies for the Peer Group were revenue, EBITDA, total assets, employees, market capitalization and enterprise value. Relative to the new 2016 Peer Group, for the four fiscal quarters ended June 30, 2015 and at such date, (1) SBA's revenue was between the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile and the median and (2) SBA's market capitalization and enterprise value were between the median and the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. The 2016 Peer Group was revised (1) to replace one communications-related company in the 2015 Peer Group (Frontier Communications Corporation) with another communications-related company (U.S. Cellular) which was more aligned with SBA based on metrics reviewed and (2) replace one communications-related company in the 2015 Peer Group (tw telecom) with Level 3 Communications (by who it had been acquired).

The table below sets forth the companies included within the 2016 Peer Group.

**Communications Related Companies**

Akamai Technologies

American Tower Corporation

OUTFRONT Media Inc.

Crown Castle International Corp.

Digital Realty Trust, Inc.

Equinix, Inc.

Lamar Advertising Company

Level 3 Communications

U.S. Cellular

Windstream Communications

**REITS**

Avalonbay Communities, Inc.

Boston Properties, Inc.

Camden Property Trust

Duke Realty Corporation

Essex Property Trust, Inc.

Health Care REIT, Inc. (now Welltower, Inc.)

Kimco Realty Corporation

The Macerich Company

Prologis Inc.

Ventas, Inc.

Once the 2016 Peer Group had been selected, the Compensation Committee began the 2016 executive compensation setting process by reviewing historical 2014 compensation data and estimated 2015 and 2016 target compensation levels of the 2016 Peer Group. The Compensation Committee sets target compensation in January and February of each year; therefore, the historical compensation data available to the Compensation Committee is based principally upon the data available from each company's prior year's proxy statement (which reflects compensation paid for two years prior). As a result, the Compensation Committee also reviewed FW Cook's estimated 2015 and 2016 target compensation levels for the 2016 Peer Group, which was based on an assessment of historical data, SEC filings made

after the relevant proxy statements, and market intelligence on executive compensation trends. Estimated 2016 compensation levels assumed a five percent increase (based on a historical analysis of the Peer Group) to prior year base salaries, target bonus levels, and long-term incentive grants, unless a company had actually disclosed a different increase or reduction prior to the time that the 2016 Peer Group data was compiled.

The Compensation Committee compared (1) base salaries, (2) target total cash compensation (salary plus annual bonus opportunity), (3) long-term incentive ( LTI ) awards and (4) target total direct compensation ( TDC ) (salary plus annual bonus opportunity plus value of LTI payable to each NEO) to the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, the median and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile target opportunity of the 2016 Peer Group. Traditionally, the Compensation Committee has sought to set target TDC at up to 110% of the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (or median) of the target TDC of the relevant Peer Group. The Compensation Committee seeks to set base salaries and target total cash compensation moderately below the median of the

34 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > PROGRAM DESIGN AND COMPETITIVE POSITION**

Peer Group. The Compensation Committee then uses long-term incentive awards, being at-risk, to ensure that TDC is at the desired level. The Compensation Committee utilizes this comparative data to ensure that SBA is setting target compensation at a competitive level and, to the extent that SBA's compensation diverges from the 110% of median, that the Compensation Committee understands and is cognizant of such divergence.

Based upon the factors set forth above, the independent compensation consultant prepared a review of the compensation data for the 2016 Peer Group. The review indicated that SBA's base salaries and target total cash compensation were below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2016 Peer Group for each of the NEOs, while the average target TDC for our NEOs was at 110% of the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the target TDC of the 2016 Peer Group.

**2017 Peer Group.** In mid-2016, in preparation for the upcoming 2017 compensation setting process, the Compensation Committee requested that FW Cook reevaluate the companies that comprise the Peer Group to determine if the peer group continues to reflect the size and other characteristics of SBA. As a result of this evaluation, FW Cook recommended and the Compensation Committee approved maintaining the same Peer Group, as this group of companies continues to align with SBA's size and business profile.

**Consideration of Shareholder Advisory Vote**

As part of its compensation setting process, the Compensation Committee annually reviews and considers the results of the prior-year's shareholder advisory vote on our executive compensation. The Compensation Committee believes that this advisory vote can provide useful feedback regarding whether shareholders believe that the Compensation Committee is achieving its goal of designing an executive compensation program that promotes the best interests of SBA and its shareholders by providing its executives with the appropriate compensation and meaningful incentives. In establishing the 2016 compensation program, the Compensation Committee took note that at the 2015 annual meeting 98% of the votes cast on the advisory vote supported SBA's executive compensation program. The Compensation Committee took into consideration this overwhelming support in its decision to maintain the current compensation program and philosophy. The Compensation Committee intends to annually review the results of the advisory vote and will be cognizant of this feedback as it completes its annual review of each pay element and the total compensation packages for our NEOs.

**Evaluating Company and NEO Performance**

Annually, our CEO provides the Compensation Committee a performance assessment for each named executive officer, including himself, and a compensation recommendation for each named executive officer, other than himself.

The performance assessment includes an analysis of SBA's performance against each of its quantitative and qualitative metrics and an evaluation of the contributions of each NEO to such performance. Our CEO also reviews each executive's three-year compensation history and current compensation data provided by our independent compensation consultant. On the basis of this evaluation, our CEO provides the Compensation Committee recommendations regarding base salary levels for the upcoming year, an evaluation of the extent to which the NEO met his annual incentive plan target, and the aggregate total long-term incentive value that each NEO should receive. In addition, the CEO offers his proposal for the performance metrics, relative weightings and threshold and target levels for our annual incentive compensation for the upcoming year.

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

**Establishing Individual Executive Compensation Packages**

The Compensation Committee conducts an annual review of the executive compensation packages. Based on this review, the Compensation Committee approves, after considering the CEO's recommendations, the following:

base salary changes,

any amounts earned under the previous year's annual incentive compensation program,

performance metrics, performance targets and annual bonus opportunity under the annual incentive compensation program for the current year, and

annual long-term incentive awards.

The Compensation Committee also approves such compensation package components for the CEO.

**Executive Compensation Components and 2016 Compensation Decisions**

To achieve its compensation philosophy and objectives, the Compensation Committee has utilized three components of total direct compensation (TDC): (1) base salary, (2) annual incentive compensation and (3) equity-based incentive compensation, or LTI. As previously stated, we do not currently provide our NEOs with a pension plan, deferred compensation or other long term incentive compensation other than the ability to contribute their earnings to SBA's 401(k) Plan.

As discussed further below, each element of our 2016 compensation program is intended to encourage and foster the following results and behaviors.





---

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

We designed our compensation program to provide executives the appropriate incentives to pursue quality long-term growth without encouraging inappropriate risk taking. As discussed below, under our program, our annual incentive opportunities are capped for each of our NEOs. We provide our equity-based incentive compensation component using a mix of equity instruments: one-third (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) of the award is granted in the form of restricted stock units and two-thirds (2/3<sup>rds</sup>) of the award is granted in the form of stock options. Providing a portion of long-term equity awards in the form of restricted stock units reduces the share dilution impact to shareholders and reduces the structural risk associated with providing one form of equity. However, two-thirds (2/3<sup>rds</sup>) of an executive's equity based compensation is still comprised of stock options, which generate realized value to the executive only if our stock price experiences long-term price appreciation. The mix of compensation components is reviewed annually.

**Base Salaries**

***Why we pay base salaries.*** The Compensation Committee believes that payment of competitive base salaries is an important element in attracting, retaining and motivating our executives. In addition, the Compensation Committee believes that having a certain level of fixed compensation allows our executives to dedicate their full time business attention to our company. Each executive's base salary is designed to provide the executive with a fixed amount of annual compensation that is competitive with the marketplace.

***How base salaries are determined.*** To the extent that we have entered into employment agreements with an NEO, such employment agreement provides a minimum level of base salary for the NEO. The Compensation Committee, however, is able to increase each officer's salary as it deems appropriate. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Compensation Committee reviews our CEO's salary recommendations for each other NEO, and then establishes salaries for such year through Compensation Committee deliberations. When we set the base salaries for the NEOs, we consider a number of factors, including compensation market data discussed above, the position's complexity and level of responsibility, the position's importance in relation to other executive positions, and the assessment of the executive's performance and other circumstances, including, for example, time in position. In addition, the Compensation Committee takes into consideration evaluations of each individual NEO, market changes and the economic and business conditions affecting SBA at the time of the evaluation.

***2016 Base Salary Decisions.*** In early 2016, upon an evaluation of the 2016 Peer Group compensation data, the Compensation Committee decided to maintain the base salaries with no increase or decrease for the CEO and each other NEO.

**Annual Incentive Compensation**

Below is information regarding our annual incentive compensation program for our NEOs. Our annual incentive compensation program has traditionally consisted of an annual cash bonus payment that we award based on (1) achievement of company-wide annual performance measures and (2) achievement of Key Metrics that are within the

relevant executive's responsibilities. In addition, the Committee evaluates the contribution of each NEO to our achievement of such results, including cross-departmental collaboration, succession planning and improved business processes and communications, and executive performance. Based on his responsibilities, each NEO was assigned two to four of these Key Metrics upon which he was evaluated. The Compensation Committee believes that by providing annual incentive compensation in the form of a cash bonus, it achieves an appropriate balance between cash (salary and annual incentive) and non-cash annual compensation for our NEOs.

---

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

***Why we pay annual incentive compensation.*** The Compensation Committee believes that the annual incentive compensation program encourages executive officers to focus on those short-term financial, operational and qualitative performance metrics that will be the basis of long-term growth. The Compensation Committee annually reviews, and revises if necessary, the appropriateness of each of these performance metrics, their correlation to SBA's overall growth strategy and the impact of such performance metrics on long-term shareholder value.

***How annual incentive compensation awards are determined.*** Annual incentive compensation awards in 2016 were determined in five steps:

- (1) determination of the annual bonus opportunity;
- (2) establishment of (a) the company-wide financial and/or operational performance metrics and (b) the financial and operational Key Metrics;
- (3) determination of the percentage of the annual bonus opportunity that will be earned based upon (x) the company-wide performance metric(s) and (y) the financial and operational Key Metrics;
- (4) approval of the minimum, target and maximum levels of each performance metric for such year and the amount of bonus that will be earned for achievement of such level; and
- (5) upon completion of the year, a review of SBA's and the NEO's performance against such performance metrics.

***How performance is measured.*** At the end of each year, the Compensation Committee determines the level at which SBA met its company-wide performance metric(s) and the Key Metrics. For 2016, achievement at the minimum level (set slightly below budget), entitled the NEO to approximately 40% of the amount of bonus earnable by the NEO for the applicable performance metric. Achievement at the budget level entitled the NEO to 50% of the amount of bonus earnable by the NEO for the applicable performance metric. Achievement at the target level entitled the NEO to 100% of the amount of bonus earnable by the NEO for the applicable performance metric. Achievement at the maximum level entitled the NEO to 150% of the amount of bonus earnable by the NEO for the applicable performance metric. If SBA achieved between the minimum and the budget, between the budget and target or between target and maximum of any performance metric, the amount of the bonus payment with respect to that metric was calculated on generally a linear basis. With respect to the Key Metrics, the Committee also takes into consideration the executive's contribution in the attainment of such metrics.

Although the Key Metrics component of an NEO's annual incentive compensation is set at 50%, to the extent that SBA exceeded its target Annualized Adjusted EBITDA performance level, then the target amount that could be earned by

achievement of the Key Metrics component would be reduced to an amount equal to the maximum target bonus minus the percentage of annual bonus opportunity earned through the Annualized Adjusted EBITDA component. For example, if SBA achieves Annualized Adjusted EBITDA at the maximum level (thereby earning 75% of the annual bonus opportunity), then the achievement of the Key Metrics component at target would only entitle an NEO with a 100% target bonus opportunity to 25% of his annual bonus opportunity (100% minus 75%). Therefore, an NEO will only be entitled to receive his full annual bonus opportunity if he achieves 100% of his Key Metrics component.

While the Compensation Committee retains the authority and discretion to pay more than the amount of the annual bonus opportunity, the Compensation Committee's current guidelines provide that NEOs

38 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

may not receive more than 100% of their respective annual bonus opportunity absent circumstances that were not contemplated in our annual planning, budgeting or incentive compensation performance goal setting processes. Consequently, while achievement of Annualized Adjusted EBITDA above the target level or a Key Metrics score in excess of 100% could be used to offset performance below target for the other metric, the maximum that any NEO could earn would still be limited to the 100% (125% in the case of Mr. Stoops) of his annual base salary. We believe that the bonus cap for NEOs provides an appropriate check and balance to the risks and rewards of short-term incentives.

**2016 Annual Incentive Compensation Decisions**

For 2016, the Compensation Committee continued, in substantially the same form, the 2015 annual incentive compensation program design. Each NEO had the same (no increase or decrease) target annual incentive compensation in 2016 as he had in 2015.

***Company-wide Performance***

For 2016, 50% of each NEO's annual bonus opportunity was based on SBA meeting its Annualized Adjusted EBITDA target. We believe that Adjusted EBITDA is one of our most important performance metrics, used by investors, shareholders and creditors as an indicator of the performance of our core operations. Furthermore, Adjusted EBITDA is a metric that every NEO can impact and therefore serves as an appropriate measure of company-wide performance. Based on the growing contribution of our international operations, especially Brazil, to SBA's overall results and the volatility of the Brazilian real, the Committee decided to measure Annualized Adjusted EBITDA on a constant currency basis utilizing Brazilian real and Canadian dollar exchange rates used in establishing the budget. The Committee believed that this would allow it to more accurately capture the operating results of the business as impacted by the NEO.

The table below sets forth minimum, budget, target and maximum levels for Annualized Adjusted EBITDA for 2016.

	Minimum*	Budget*	Target*	Maximum*
(amounts in millions)	(40%)	(50%)	(100%)	(150%)(2)
Annualized Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 1,120	\$ 1,139	\$ 1,224	\$ 1,310

\* Financial targets disclosed in this section are done so in the limited context of our annual incentive compensation program and are not statements of management's expectations or estimates of results or other guidance. We specifically caution investors not to apply these statements to other contexts.

(1) Annualized Adjusted EBITDA is defined as Adjusted EBITDA minus annual tower cash flow, plus four (4) times tower cash flow for the fourth quarter. For purposes of determining annual incentive compensation, Annualized Adjusted EBITDA is calculated on a constant currency basis utilizing the

budgeted exchange rates.

(2) Subject to the overall cap of 100% of bonus opportunity.

In early 2017, the Compensation Committee reviewed SBA's Annualized Adjusted EBITDA performance against the minimum, budget, target and maximum levels. For 2016, achievement against the target performance levels excluded a portion of the impact of the Oi reserve as the Compensation Committee believed that the Oi bankruptcy was not reflective of our recurring operating results. Any amounts recovered from the Oi bankruptcy will, similarly, be excluded from the determination of Annualized Adjusted EBITDA in the period that such amounts are received. The Compensation

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

Committee determined that Annualized Adjusted EBITDA was at the minimum and that each NEO earned 40% (the minimum) of their respective opportunity for Annualized Adjusted EBITDA results. In addition, the Compensation Committee reviewed the extent to which SBA met its other financial, operational and qualitative metrics and the contribution that each NEO made in attainment of such metric.

***Key Metrics***

For 2016, 50% of each NEO's annual bonus opportunity was based on his Key Metrics score. In determining the Key Metrics score earned by each NEO, the Compensation Committee evaluated our level of achievement of each of the metrics during 2016 against our internally budgeted goals. For 2016, achievement at the minimum level (set slightly below budget), entitled the NEO to approximately 40% of the amount of bonus earnable by the NEO for the applicable performance metric. Achievement at the budget level entitled the NEO to 50% of the amount of bonus earnable by the NEO for the applicable performance metric. Achievement at the target level entitled the NEO to 100% of the amount of bonus earnable by the NEO for the applicable performance metric. Achievement at the maximum level entitled the NEO to 150% of the amount of bonus earnable by the NEO for the applicable performance metric. Based on its evaluation, the Committee determined the following:

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>Performance Highlights</b>
AFFO Per Share	At Budget	The combination of our strong operational performance and sound capital allocation drove material gains in AFFO Per Share during 2016.
International Operations	Between Minimum and Budget	While international organic leasing exceeded our internally budgeted goals, international new builds and international EBITDA was less than the minimum that we had internally budgeted.
Domestic Leasing Performance	Below Budget	While Total Site Leasing Revenue came in at the upper end of our guidance, our domestic leasing component for compensation purposes is a more conservative metric and is measured on an organic basis excluding escalators.



Site Development Segment Performance	Below Budget	Our site development segment performance had a difficult year in 2016 as the services business has been subject to significant competitive pressures.
--------------------------------------	--------------	---

Ground Lease Purchases and Extensions	Above Maximum	Our ground lease group successfully processed over 1,200 transactions
---------------------------------------	---------------	---

Tower Acquisitions	Below Budget	The U.S. and international results were principally due to our capital allocation strategy as we found stock repurchases more attractively priced than many of the acquisition opportunities available during 2016.
--------------------	--------------	---

U.S. New Builds	Below Budget	Fewer attractive opportunities resulted in us not meeting our internally budgeted goals.
-----------------	--------------	--

Tower Expenses	Exceeded Maximum	During the year we achieved a significant reduction to budget in the average non-discretionary capital expenditures and average operating expenses associated with our towers.
----------------	------------------	--

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

In addition to these quantitative metrics, the Committee also cited our operational achievements during 2016, such as (1) we successfully completed two debt financings aggregating \$1.8 billion at attractive rates and terms and completed of the REIT conversion and (2) we achieved reduction of SG&A as a percentage of revenue; and achieved exemplary compliance and audit results. The Compensation Committee then evaluated the contribution that each NEO made to his respective Key Metrics and other qualitative measures that the Compensation Committee believed strengthened SBA for the long-term and thereby created value for shareholders and determined each NEO's aggregate percentage of achievement.

The table below sets forth, in dollars and percentages, the target annual bonus opportunity of each of our NEOs in 2016 and the annual incentive bonus earned by each NEO for his 2016 performance. No NEO was awarded his full bonus opportunity for 2016.

<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>Target Bonus Opportunity</b>		<b>Incentive Bonus Earned</b>	
	<b>% of Base Salary</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>
Jeffrey A. Stoops	125%	\$ 937,500	60%	\$ 562,500
Brendan T. Cavanagh	100%	\$ 450,000	60%	\$ 270,000
Kurt L. Bagwell	100%	\$ 475,000	60%	\$ 285,000
Thomas P. Hunt	100%	\$ 475,000	60%	\$ 285,000
Jason Silberstein	100%	\$ 380,000	45%	\$ 171,000

**Equity-Based Compensation**

**Why we pay equity-based compensation.** The Compensation Committee's philosophy is that a majority of an executive's compensation should be based directly upon the value of long-term incentive compensation in the form of restricted stock units and stock option awards so as to align the financial interests of our executives with those of our shareholders. The Compensation Committee believes that providing executives with the opportunities to acquire significant stakes in our growth and prosperity (through grants of equity based compensation), while maintaining other components of our compensation program at competitive levels, will incentivize and reward executives for sound business management, develop a high-performance team environment, foster the accomplishment of short-term and long-term strategic and operational objectives and compensate executives for improvement in shareholder value, all of which are essential to our ongoing success.

**How equity-based compensation is determined.** Annually, the Compensation Committee evaluates the appropriate form and mix of equity-based compensation that SBA will grant as part of its long term incentive compensation and approves the dollar value of long-term equity awards that will be granted to each NEO. In addition, the Compensation Committee approves the final list of equity award recipients.

Initially, the Compensation Committee reviews the various forms of equity that may be awarded, including stock options, restricted stock and other forms of equity-based compensation and receives reports from its compensation consultant with alternatives and recommendations. Since 2010, we have provided long-term incentive awards as follows: 1/3<sup>rd</sup> in the form of restricted stock units and 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s in the form of stock options. Both the restricted stock unit awards and the stock options vest over four years. The Compensation Committee believes, and conversations with our largest shareholders reinforce, that stock options provide strong alignment with shareholder interests as options have no

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

value unless the our stock price increases, which benefits shareholders. The Compensation Committee believes that restricted stock units are also an important component of long-term incentive as they (1) facilitate our stock ownership program, (2) improve retention, (3) materially reduce projected future share usage in our equity compensation plans and (4) mitigate structural risk associated with using purely stock options as equity compensation. The Compensation Committee chose restricted stock units, rather than restricted stock, as it believed that NEOs should not receive voting rights or dividend rights until, and that the shares should be counted as outstanding only once, the award had vested. While the Compensation Committee believes that restricted stock unit awards are at-risk, they do not view them as performance-based. Consequently, to continue to ensure that a significant portion of compensation continues to be performance-based, the Compensation Committee decided once again to limit restricted stock units to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total value of the 2016 long-term equity incentive grant.

The Compensation Committee then approves a target dollar value of the long-term incentive grants ( LTI Value ) for each NEO based on a review of the Peer Group analysis and an evaluation of the individual NEO s responsibilities, contributions and performance in the prior year. Once a target LTI Value is approved, the Compensation Committee then determines (1) a target number of restricted stock units based on dividing one-third of the LTI Value by a derived price equal to the average closing price of our common stock in the two calendar months of January and February (the derived price ) and (2) a target number of stock options by dividing two thirds of the LTI Value by the estimated compensation expense of an option under FASB ASC Topic 718 (successor to SFAS 123(R)) assuming a stock price equal to the derived price. However, the actual exercise price of a stock option is the closing price of the common stock on the date of grant, which determines the actual compensation expense under GAAP and the amount reflected in the Summary Compensation Table. The Compensation Committee believes that utilizing the two-month measurement period of January 1 through the end of February is appropriate because a two month reference period mitigates the potential short-term volatility of SBA s stock price.

Using stock option values that are determined in accordance with GAAP, and consistent with the SEC disclosure requirements, is essential to the Compensation Committee s deliberations as it is the basis on which all peer group data is reported and compiled. While this approach is almost universally applied in the compensation community, there are some firms that use their own subjective guidelines. We believe that the use of alternative approaches (1) contradicts common practice, (2) differs from the methodology espoused by U.S. regulatory bodies, and (3) could result in confusion when our shareholders compare our compensation practices to those of our competitors.

**2016 Long-Term Incentive Awards.** In February 2016, upon an evaluation of the 2016 Peer Group compensation data, the Compensation Committee decided to maintain (no increase or decrease) the LTI Value granted to our NEOs. Specifically, the Compensation Committee approved the following restricted stock unit and stock option awards for our NEOs:

<b>Officer</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>Long-Term Incentive Target Value</b>	<b>Long-Term Incentive Target Value</b>	<b>Restricted Stock Units (#)</b>	<b>Stock Options (#)</b>

	(\$)	(\$)		
Jeffrey A. Stoops	5,612,000	5,612,000	19,707	201,614
Brendan T. Cavanagh	1,900,000	1,900,000	6,672	68,258
Kurt L. Bagwell	2,250,000	2,250,000	7,901	80,832
Thomas P. Hunt	2,250,000	2,250,000	7,901	80,832
Jason V. Silberstein	1,640,000	1,640,000	5,759	58,918

42 [SBA Communications Corporation](#) | [2017 Proxy Statement](#)

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

The stock options were granted on March 4, 2016 with an exercise price of \$96.58. The actual grant date value of the restricted stock units and stock options granted to our NEOs is set forth under "Stock Awards" and "Option Awards" on the "Summary Compensation Table" later in this proxy statement.

***2016 Total Direct Compensation.*** Based on the processes and considerations described above, Total Direct Compensation for the NEOs in 2016 was held flat (no increase or decrease) compared to 2015.

**Other Benefits**

We do not provide pension, supplemental retirement benefits or material perquisites to our executives as they are not tied to performance. Consequently, "All Other Compensation" constitutes less than 0.3% of the total compensation paid during 2016 to our CEO and the average of our other NEOs' compensation.

Our NEOs are eligible to participate in our active employee flexible benefits plans, which are generally available to all full-time employees. Under these plans, all employees are entitled to medical, vision, dental, life insurance and long-term disability coverage. All full-time employees are also entitled to vacation, sick leave and other paid holidays. SBA also provides all full-time employees, including our NEOs, with a 75% match on their 401(k) contributions up to \$4,000. In addition to the benefits provided to all full-time employees, SBA's officers, including our NEOs, are provided supplemental medical reimbursement insurance. Supplemental medical reimbursement insurance reimburses the officer for co-pays, out-of-pocket expenses and most uncovered expenses. The Compensation Committee believes that SBA's commitment to provide these employee benefits recognizes that the health and well-being of SBA's NEOs contributes directly to a productive and successful work life that enhances results for SBA and its shareholders.

**Severance and Change in Control Benefits**

We currently have employment agreements with each of Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt which provide for certain severance payments and benefits if the executive's employment terminates under certain circumstances, including as a result of, or following, a change in control. These severance and change in control severance benefits, as well as a summary of potential payments relating to these and other termination events, can be found under the heading "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control" on page 52.

**Other Compensation Practices**

***Equity Grant Practices.*** It is the Compensation Committee's practice to insure that equity awards are not impacted by the release of material non-public information. Traditionally, the Compensation Committee has granted employee and executive officer equity awards subsequent to the release of SBA's annual financial and operational results.

Commencing in 2009, the Compensation Committee adopted an equity grant policy which provides that annual employee grants will be made on the fourth business day in March, absent any material non-public information, in part to assure the prior public dissemination of our annual report on Form 10-K. The exercise price of a stock option will continue to be equal to the closing price of our common stock on the date of the grant.

**Table of Contents****COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

***Officer and Director Stock Ownership Guidelines.*** Our Stock Ownership Guidelines establish minimum equity ownership requirements for our CEO, our Executive Vice Presidents, each of our other officers and each member of our Board. The purposes of the Guidelines are to align the interests of those officers and directors with the interests of shareholders and further promote our commitment to sound corporate governance. The minimum required ownership is determined (i) with respect to each officer, as a multiple of the officer's annual base salary as of the date of calculation and (ii) with respect to each director, as a multiple of the director's annual retainer as of the date of calculation and, in each instance, then converted to a fixed number of shares. The minimum ownerships levels are as follows:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Multiple of Base Salary or Annual Retainer</b>
CEO	6x Base Salary
Executive Vice Presidents	3x Base Salary
Other Officer	1x Base Salary
Director	3x Annual Retainer

The Guidelines provide that (1) outstanding shares directly owned, (2) outstanding shares indirectly owned (but only to the extent that the officer or director has an economic interest in, or a voting right over, such shares) and (3) shares held in savings, retirement or deferred compensation plans may be included in determining whether an officer or a director has met the minimum ownership requirement. Until such time as an officer or director has met his or her minimum required ownership, he or she must retain 100% of all shares, net of taxes, received from the settlement of restricted stock awards granted under our incentive plans. Shares that are used in determining if an officer or a director has met the minimum ownership requirements may not be pledged.

***Prohibition on Hedging.*** Officers and directors are not permitted to enter into hedging arrangements with respect to shares of SBA Class A Common Stock that they beneficially own.

***Tax Deductibility of Compensation.***

***Code Section 162(m).*** Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), imposes a \$1 million limit on the amount that a public company may deduct for compensation paid to covered employees. However, performance-based compensation, as defined in the tax law, is fully deductible if the programs are approved by shareholders and meet other requirements. We believe that tax deductibility is only one factor to take into consideration in connection with executive compensation decisions. Consequently, we may make payments, such as restricted stock units or any payments under the annual incentive plan, that are not fully deductible if, in our judgment, such payments are necessary to achieve our compensation objectives and to protect shareholder interests.

***Code Section 409A.*** Under Section 409A of the Code, amounts deferred by an NEO under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan (including certain severance plans) may be included in gross income when earned and subject to a 20% additional federal tax, unless the plan complies with certain requirements related to the timing of deferral election and distribution decisions. We administer our plans consistent with Section 409A requirements and have



amended plan documents to reflect Section 409A requirements.

*Code Sections 280G and 4999.* Sections 280G and 4999 of the Code limit a public company's ability to take a tax deduction for certain excess parachute payments (as defined in Sections 280G and 4999) and impose excise taxes on each executive that receives excess parachute payments in connection

44 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS > COMPENSATION COMPONENTS AND DECISIONS**

with his or her severance from a public company in connection with a change in control. The Compensation Committee considers, as one of many factors, the adverse tax liabilities imposed by Sections 280G and 4999, as well as other competitive factors, when it structures certain post-termination compensation payable to our NEOs. The potential adverse tax consequences to our company and/or the executive, however, are not necessarily determinative factors in such decisions.

**Non-GAAP Reconciliation**

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis includes the following non-GAAP financial measures: Annualized Adjusted EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA Margin, AFFO Per Share, Tower Cash Flow, Tower Cash Flow Margin and Return on Invested Capital. Please see Exhibit A of this proxy statement for a reconciliation of such measures.

**Table of Contents**

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the disclosure set forth above under the heading "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" with management and, based on such review and discussions, it has recommended to the Board that the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" be included in this proxy statement.

Respectfully submitted by the Compensation Committee of the Board,

The Compensation Committee

Jack Langer

Brian C. Carr

Duncan H. Cocroft

George R. Krouse Jr.

March 30, 2017

46 [SBA Communications Corporation](#) | [2017 Proxy Statement](#)

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION****Summary Compensation Table**

The following table presents certain summary information for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 concerning compensation earned for services rendered in all capacities by our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer and our other three most highly compensated executive officers, in each instance whose total compensation exceeded \$100,000 during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. We refer to these officers collectively as our named executive officers.

<b>Name and Principal Position</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Salary (\$)</b>	<b>Stock Awards (\$)<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Option Awards (\$)<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>All Other Compensation (\$)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
Jeffrey A. Stoops	2016	\$ 750,000	\$ 1,903,302	\$ 3,868,283	\$ 562,500	\$ 11,570 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 7,095,655
President and Chief Executive Officer	2015	750,000	2,004,279	3,990,141	609,000	12,956	7,366,376
	2014	700,000	1,701,103	3,419,919	820,750	26,675	6,668,447
Brendan T. Cavanagh	2016	450,000	644,382	1,309,638	270,000	18,949 <sup>(3)</sup>	2,692,969
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2015	450,000	678,517	1,350,886	293,000	9,764	2,782,167
	2014	400,000	587,127	1,180,466	400,000	9,493	2,577,087
Kurt L. Bagwell	2016	475,000	763,079	1,550,890	285,000	18,409 <sup>(3)</sup>	3,092,377
Executive Vice President and President International	2015	475,000	803,481	1,599,756	333,000	6,987	3,218,223
	2014	425,000	708,068	1,423,503	398,650	8,742	2,963,964
Thomas P. Hunt	2016	475,000	763,079	1,550,890	285,000	0	3,073,968
Executive Vice President,	2015	475,000	803,481	1,599,756	380,000	108	3,258,344
	2014	425,000	708,068	1,423,503	403,750	-	2,960,322

Chief  
Administrative  
Officer

and General  
Counsel

Jason V. Silberstein	2016	380,000	556,204	1,130,435	171,000	5,546 <sup>(3)</sup>	2,243,186
Executive Vice President	2015	380,000	585,698	1,166,020	179,000	6,538	2,317,256
Site Leasing	2014	330,000	497,329	999,932	330,000	9,270	2,166,532

- (1) The amounts in these columns do not reflect compensation actually received by the named executive officer nor do they reflect the actual value that will be recognized by the named executive officer. Instead the amounts reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. For additional information on the valuation assumptions regarding the restricted stock unit awards and the option awards, refer to Note 14 to our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, which are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed with the SEC.
- (2) The amounts reported in this column reflect compensation earned for 2016, 2015 and 2014 performance under our annual cash incentive compensation program. We make payments under this program in the first quarter of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which they were earned after finalization of our audited financial statements.
- (3) These amounts represent reimbursements for health insurance and medical expenses pursuant to our supplemental medical reimbursement program and company matching contributions to such named executive officer's 401(k) plan.

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS****Grants of Plan-Based Awards**

The following table provides information about cash (non-equity) and equity incentive compensation awarded to our named executive officers in 2016 including: (1) the range of possible cash payouts under our annual incentive compensation program; (2) the grant date of equity awards; (3) the number of restricted stock units granted; (4) the number of underlying shares and exercise price of stock option grants; and (5) the grant date fair value of the restricted stock unit grants and stock option grants calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. The restricted stock unit awards and stock option awards were granted under SBA's 2010 Performance and Equity Incentive Plan, which is discussed in greater detail in this proxy statement under the caption Compensation Discussion and Analysis. The exercise price of all options was equal to the closing market price of our Class A common stock on the date of grant.

Name	Estimated Future Payouts		Grant Date	All other stock awards: Number of shares of stock or units (#) <sup>(3)</sup>	All Other Option Awards: Number of Underlying Options (#) <sup>(4)</sup>	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant date fair value of stock and option awards (\$)
	Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(1)</sup> Threshold (\$)	Target (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>					
Jeffrey A. Stoops	\$ 375,000	\$ 937,500	3/4/2016	19,707	201,614	\$ 96.58	\$ 5,771,585
Brendan T. Cavanagh	180,000	450,000	3/4/2016	6,672	68,258	\$ 96.58	1,954,019
Kurt L. Bagwell	190,000	475,000	3/4/2016	7,901	80,832	\$ 96.58	2,313,968
Thomas P. Hunt	190,000	475,000	3/4/2016	7,901	80,832	\$ 96.58	2,313,968
Jason V. Silberstein	152,000	380,000	3/4/2016	5,759	58,918	\$ 96.58	1,686,639

(1) The amounts in these columns reflect potential payments of annual cash incentive compensation based on 2016 performance. The 2016 annual cash incentive payments were made in March 2017. The actual amounts paid under our annual cash incentive compensation program are the amounts reflected in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

(2)

As described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section on page 40, each performance metric in the annual incentive compensation program has a minimum, budget, target and maximum level, entitling the officer to 40%, 50%, 100% or 150% of the amount of annual incentive compensation allocated to such metric. An executive would be entitled to receive 100% of his annual cash incentive opportunity if SBA and the individual met each of the performance metrics at the target level. However, as SBA has a policy that no named executive officer may receive annual cash incentive compensation in excess of his annual cash incentive opportunity, achievement of any performance metric at the maximum level could only offset achievement of another performance metric below the target level.

- (3) This column represents the number of restricted stock units granted in 2016 to the named executive officers. These restricted stock units vest in four equal annual installments, beginning on March 4, 2017, the first anniversary of the grant date.
  
- (4) This column represents the number of stock options granted in 2016 to the named executive officers. These stock options vest and become exercisable ratably in four equal annual installments, beginning on March 4, 2017, the first anniversary of the grant date.

**Table of Contents**

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > NARRATIVE DISCLOSURE TO COMPENSATION TABLES**

**Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table**

**Employment Agreements**

As discussed above under the caption Compensation Discussion and Analysis, we have entered into employment agreements with Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt in order to further our ability to retain their services as executive officers of SBA.

*Material Terms of Employment Agreement with Mr. Stoops*

We entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Stoops, effective October 30, 2014, that replaced his existing employment agreement. The employment agreement provides for Mr. Stoops to serve in his present position until its expiration on December 31, 2017. Under the employment agreement, Mr. Stoops is entitled to receive a base salary and an annual cash bonus based on achievement of performance criteria established by the Board of Directors. For 2016, Mr. Stoops had a minimum target bonus opportunity equal to 125% of his 2016 base salary. The employment agreement also provides for noncompetition, noninterference, non-disparagement and nondisclosure covenants.

*Material Terms of Employment Agreements with Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt*

We entered into employment agreements with Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt, effective December 7, 2015, that replaced each officer's existing employment agreement. The employment agreements, which provide for each of Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt to continue to serve in their present positions, expire on December 31, 2018.

The employment agreements with Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt provide that the executive is entitled to receive a minimum base salary set at the rate in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the employment agreement, which amount may be increased by the Board, and that each executive officer will have a minimum target bonus opportunity, which may be increased by the Board. The 2016 target bonus opportunities were set at 100% of annual base salary for each of Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt. In addition, each of the employment agreements provides for noncompetition, noninterference, non-disparagement and nondisclosure covenants.

*Terminations and Change in Control Provisions*

Each of the employment agreements with Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt provide that upon termination of the executive's employment without cause, or upon his resignation for good reason, he is entitled to receive certain benefits. A discussion of these benefits and how these provisions would be applied if any of Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell, or Hunt had been terminated or if a change in control had occurred on December 31, 2016 can be found under the heading Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control beginning on page 52. Such payments are subject to the executive's execution of a full release and waiver of claims against SBA.





**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END****Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End**

The following table provides information concerning unexercised options and unvested restricted stock units for each named executive officer outstanding as of the end of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. Each stock option and restricted stock unit grant is shown separately for each named executive officer.

Name	Equity Award Grant Date	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options		Option Awards		Stock Awards	
		exercisable (#)	unexercisable (#)	Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of shares or units of stock that have not vested <sup>(1)</sup>	Market value of shares or units of stock that have not vested <sup>(2)</sup>
Jeffrey A. Stoops	3/6/2012	106,450	-	47.52	3/6/2019	-	-
	3/6/2013	108,921	36,307 <sup>(3)</sup>	72.99	3/6/2020	4,755	491,001
	3/6/2014	87,764	87,765 <sup>(3)</sup>	95.53	3/6/2021	8,904	919,427
	3/5/2015	40,178	120,537 <sup>(3)</sup>	124.59	3/5/2022	12,066	1,245,935
	3/4/2016	-	201,614 <sup>(3)</sup>	96.58	3/4/2023	19,707	2,034,945
			343,313	446,223			45,432
Brendan T. Cavanagh	3/4/2011	27,221	-	42.15	3/4/2018	-	-
	3/6/2012	28,999	-	47.52	3/6/2019	-	-
	3/6/2013	35,399	11,800 <sup>(3)</sup>	72.99	3/6/2020	1,545	159,537
	3/6/2014	30,294	30,294 <sup>(3)</sup>	95.53	3/6/2021	3,073	317,318
	3/5/2015	13,602	40,809 <sup>(3)</sup>	124.59	3/5/2022	4,085	421,817
	3/4/2016	-	68,258 <sup>(3)</sup>	96.58	3/4/2023	6,672	688,951
		135,515	151,161			15,375	1,587,623

Edgar Filing: SBA COMMUNICATIONS CORP - Form DEF 14A

Kurt L. Bagwell	3/6/2012	9,123	-	47.52	3/6/2019	-	-
	3/6/2013	31,224	15,612 <sup>(3)</sup>	72.99	3/6/2020	2,045	211,167
	3/6/2014	36,531	36,531 <sup>(3)</sup>	95.53	3/6/2021	3,706	382,682
	3/5/2015	16,108	48,327 <sup>(3)</sup>	124.59	3/5/2022	4,837	499,469
	3/4/2016	-	80,832 <sup>(3)</sup>	96.58	3/4/2023	7,901	815,857
		92,986	181,302			18,489	1,909,174
Thomas P. Hunt	3/4/2010	36,342	-	35.71	3/4/2017	-	-
	3/4/2011	41,147	-	42.15	3/4/2018	-	-
	3/6/2012	44,908	-	47.52	3/6/2019	-	-
	3/6/2013	46,836	15,612 <sup>(3)</sup>	72.99	3/6/2020	2,045	211,167
	3/6/2014	36,531	36,531 <sup>(3)</sup>	95.53	3/6/2021	3,706	382,682
	3/5/2015	16,108	48,327 <sup>(3)</sup>	124.59	3/5/2022	4,837	499,469
	3/4/2016	-	80,832 <sup>(3)</sup>	96.58	3/4/2023	7,901	815,857
			221,872	181,302			18,489
Jason V. Silberstein	3/6/2013	-	10,439 <sup>(3)</sup>	72.99	3/6/2020	1,367	141,156
	3/6/2014	25,661	25,661 <sup>(3)</sup>	95.53	3/6/2021	2,603	268,786
	3/5/2015	11,741	35,224 <sup>(3)</sup>	124.59	3/5/2022	3,526	364,095
	3/4/2016	-	58,918 <sup>(3)</sup>	96.58	3/4/2023	5,759	594,674
			37,402	130,242			13,255

(1) The restricted stock units vest in four equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date.

(2) The market value of the restricted stock units is calculated by multiplying the closing price of SBA's Class A common stock on December 30, 2016 (\$103.26) by the number of restricted stock units.

(3) The stock options awarded pursuant to this stock option grant vest and become exercisable in four equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date.

50 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED****Option Exercises and Stock Vested**

The following table provides information concerning exercises of stock options and vesting of restricted stock units and the value realized on exercise of such stock options and vesting of restricted stock units on an aggregated basis during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 for each of the named executive officers.

Name	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Option Awards		Stock Awards <sup>(1)</sup>
		Value Realized on Exercise (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) <sup>(3)</sup>	Value Realized on Vesting (\$) <sup>(4)</sup>
Jeffrey A. Stoops	176,909 <sup>(5)</sup>	13,384,921	19,113	1,845,934
Brendan T. Cavanagh	32,885 <sup>(6)</sup>	2,644,279	6,163	595,223
Kurt L. Bagwell	2,104 <sup>(7)</sup>	141,915	7,992	771,867
Thomas P. Hunt	64,422 <sup>(8)</sup>	4,839,763	7,992	771,867
Jason V. Silberstein	17,299 <sup>(9)</sup>	925,872	5,362	517,862

(1) These columns reflect restricted stock units previously awarded to the named executive officers that vested during 2016.

(2) The value realized on exercise for shares exercised is calculated by multiplying the number of shares times the difference between the closing price of Class A common stock on the date of exercise and the per share exercise price of the options.

(3) Of these amounts, shares were withheld by us to cover tax withholding obligations as follows: Mr. Stoops, 7,429 shares; Mr. Cavanagh, 1,688 shares; Mr. Bagwell, 2,347 shares; and Mr. Silberstein, 1,469 shares.

(4) Calculated based on the closing market price of SBA Class A common stock on the business day prior to the applicable vesting dates, which fell on a weekend (\$96.58).

- (5) Mr. Stoops exercised the options and (i) used 81,909 of the shares acquired upon exercise of the options to pay the option exercise price and to cover tax withholding obligations and (ii) held 95,000 of the shares acquired upon exercise of the options.
- (6) Mr. Cavanagh exercised the options and (i) used 10,675 of the shares acquired upon exercise of the options to pay a portion of the option exercise price and to cover tax withholding obligations and (ii) held 22,210 of the shares acquired upon the exercise of the options.
- (7) Mr. Bagwell exercised the options and held all of the shares acquired upon exercise of the options.
- (8) Mr. Hunt exercised the options and held all of the shares acquired upon exercise of the options.
- (9) Mr. Silberstein exercised the options and sold all of the shares acquired upon exercise of the options.

**Table of Contents**

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE-IN-CONTROL**

**Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control**

Our employment agreements with Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt provide for severance payments under certain circumstances. The material terms of the severance provisions for the employment agreements in effect as of December 31, 2016 are as follows:

***Covered terminations.*** The executive would receive severance payments if his employment were terminated (1) by SBA without cause or (2) by the executive for good reason, with the amount of such payments varying to the extent that such termination occurs either (A) on or after a change in control or (B) six months prior to a change in control if it is reasonably demonstrated that such termination was in contemplation of the change in control.

Cause, means any of the following events: (i) the officer's willful, material violation of any law applicable to our business; (ii) the officer's conviction of, or plea of no contest, to a felony; (iii) any willful perpetration by the officer of an act involving moral turpitude or common law fraud; (iv) any act of gross negligence by the officer in the performance of his duties; (v) any willful misconduct by the officer that is materially injurious to our company; (vi) the willful and continued failure or refusal of the officer to satisfactorily perform the duties reasonably required of him; or (vii) any breach by the officer of provisions in his employment agreement relating to noncompetition, noninterference, non-disparagement and nondisclosure. With respect to Mr. Stoops, cause also includes any material violation of the employee manuals of our company, as in effect from time to time. With respect to Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt, cause also includes (x) the officer's material violation of our Code of Ethics; or (y) the indictment for any crime, whether a felony or misdemeanor, involving the purchase or sale of any security, mail or wire fraud, theft, embezzlement, moral turpitude, or our property where such indictment has a material adverse impact on the officer's ability to perform his duties.

Good reason, means any of the following events: (i) the officer's position, title, duties, and reporting responsibilities in effect on the effective date become less favorable in any material respect, provided, however, that good reason will not have occurred if (1) the diminution in the officer's position, duties or reporting responsibilities is solely and directly a result of SBA no longer being a publicly-traded company; (2) the event resulting in SBA no longer being a publicly-traded entity is a leveraged buyout, acquisition by a private equity fund and/or other

similar going private transaction and is not as a result of the acquisition of SBA or its business by another operating company; and (3) the officer continues to hold the same position and title with SBA and no other act or omission has occurred that would constitute an event of good reason, (ii) a reduction in, or, in the case of Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt, a change in the form of, the base salary, bonus, or material benefits, as of the effective date, other than an across-the-board reduction applicable to all of our senior executive officers; or (iii) the relocation, without the officer's consent, of the officer's principal place of business to a location that is more than 60 miles (or 20 miles for Mr. Stoops) from the officer's primary business location on the effective date.

A change in control, will be deemed to have occurred when (i) any person is or becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of our securities representing 35% or more of the combined voting power of our then-outstanding securities; (ii) a

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE-IN-CONTROL**

majority of the Board of Directors is not constituted of (A) individuals who were on the Board as of the effective date ( Incumbent Directors ) and (B) any new director (other than a director whose initial assumption of office is in connection with an actual or threatened election contest) whose appointment or election by the Board or nomination for election by our shareholders was approved or recommended by a vote of at least a majority of the Incumbent Directors; (iii) a merger or consolidation of our company is consummated, other than (A) a merger or consolidation which would result in our voting securities outstanding immediately prior to such merger or consolidation continuing to represent at least 50% of the combined voting power of the surviving entity outstanding immediately after such merger or consolidation, or (B) a merger or consolidation effected to implement a recapitalization of our company (or similar transaction) in which no person is or becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of our securities representing 50% or more of the combined voting power of our then outstanding securities; or (iv) our shareholders approve a plan of complete liquidation or dissolution of our company or there is consummated an agreement for the sale or disposition of all or substantially all of our assets, other than a sale or disposition of all or substantially all of our assets to an entity, at least 50% of the combined voting power of the voting securities of which are owned by shareholders of our company in substantially the same proportions as their ownership of our company immediately prior to such sale.

***Stoops Severance Payment.*** Upon the occurrence of a covered termination, Mr. Stoops would receive a severance payment equal to the sum of: (a) an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the minimum target bonus opportunity for the period of service in the year in which the termination or resignation occurs, and (b) an amount equal to the applicable multiple multiplied by the sum of Mr. Stoops (i) base salary for the year in which the termination or resignation occurs, (ii) Reference Bonus (as defined below) and (iii) Reference Benefits Value (as defined below). Mr. Stoops' severance payment is payable in a lump sum. Applicable multiple, means two (2), in the event the termination occurs prior to a change in control of SBA, and three (3), in the event the termination occurs on or after a change in control of SBA. Reference Benefits Value means the greater of (x) \$33,560 and (y) the value of all medical, dental, health, life, and other fringe benefit plans for the year in which the termination or resignation occurs. Reference Bonus means the greater of (i) 75% of Mr. Stoops' minimum target bonus opportunity for the year in which the termination or resignation occurs and (ii) 100% of the bonus paid for the year immediately preceding the year in which the termination or resignation occurred.

***Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt Severance Payment.*** Upon the occurrence of a covered termination, Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt would receive a severance payment equal to the sum of: (a) an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the minimum target bonus opportunity for the period of service in the year in which the termination or resignation occurs, and (b) an amount equal to the applicable multiple multiplied by the sum of such officer's (i) base salary for the year in which the termination or resignation occurs and (ii) the minimum target bonus opportunity. Applicable multiple, means one (1) in the event a termination or



resignation occurs prior to a change in control of SBA, and two (2) in the event termination or resignation occurs on or after a change in control of SBA. Each of Messrs. Cavanagh s, Bagwell s and Hunt s severance payment is payable in a lump sum.

*Impact of termination upon Change in Control.* Upon the occurrence of a change in control, the term of each of the employment agreements is extended three years in the case

**Table of Contents**

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE-IN-CONTROL**

of Mr. Stoops, and the later of December 31, 2016 or two years in the case of each of Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt.

***Benefit continuation.*** For each of Messrs. Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt, basic employee benefits such as medical, dental and life insurance, but excluding the supplemental medical reimbursement benefit, would be continued until the earlier of the applicable multiple of years from the date of termination or the date the officer becomes eligible for comparable benefits provided by a third party.

***Excise tax.*** The employment agreements of each of Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt do not provide for gross-up payments. Pursuant to the employment agreements of each of Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt, in the event that any payments made in connection with a termination of employment would be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code, and if the reduction of the payments to an amount that would not be subject to the excise tax is greater than if the payment had not been reduced, then, subject to limitations, the payments would be reduced to such amount.

In addition to the severance payments that would be payable under our existing employment agreements, our equity participation plans provide for accelerated vesting of options and restricted stock units upon a change in control. Mr. Silberstein does not have an employment agreement, consequently the only payments and benefits that he would receive upon a change in control would be the benefit resulting from the acceleration of his unvested stock options and restricted stock units. As of December 31, 2016, the value of this acceleration would be \$2,276,632 for Mr. Silberstein. The calculation of this acceleration is set forth in footnote 3 below.

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE-IN-CONTROL**

The estimated payments and benefits that would be provided to each of Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt, pursuant to their respective employment agreements, as a result of a termination for good reason or without cause, are set forth in the table below. Calculations for this table are based on the assumption that the termination for good reason or without cause took place on December 31, 2016.

Name and Type of Payment/Benefit	Payments Upon Termination for good reason or without cause	
	not in connection with a	Payments Upon Termination for good reason or without cause in connection with a
	Change in Control (\$)	Change in Control (\$)
<b>Jeffrey A. Stoops</b>		
Base salary	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,250,000
Reference Bonus <sup>(1)</sup>	1,406,250	2,109,375
Pro Rata Bonus <sup>(2)</sup>	937,500	937,500
Value of accelerated equity awards <sup>(3)</sup>	-	7,815,526
Reference Benefits Value <sup>(4)</sup>	67,120	100,680
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,910,870</b>	<b>13,213,081</b>
<b>Brendan T. Cavanagh</b>		
Base salary	\$ 450,000	\$ 900,000
Bonus	450,000	900,000
Pro Rata Bonus <sup>(2)</sup>	450,000	900,000
Value of accelerated equity awards <sup>(3)</sup>	-	2,634,945
Health/life insurance benefits	14,354	28,709
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,364,354</b>	<b>5,363,653</b>
<b>Kurt L. Bagwell</b>		
Base salary	\$ 475,000	\$ 950,000
Bonus	475,000	950,000
Pro Rata Bonus <sup>(2)</sup>	475,000	950,000
Value of accelerated equity awards <sup>(3)</sup>	-	3,204,092
Health/life insurance benefits	14,963	29,925
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,439,963</b>	<b>6,084,017</b>

Thomas P. Hunt			
Base salary	\$	475,000	\$ 950,000
Bonus		475,000	950,000
Pro Rata Bonus <sup>(2)</sup>		475,000	950,000
Value of accelerated equity awards <sup>(3)</sup>		-	3,204,092
Health/life insurance benefits		14,509	29,018
Total		1,439,509	6,083,110

- (1) For purposes of the table, this amount reflects a payment equal to two times, in the event the termination occurs not in connection with a change in control, and three times, in the event the termination occurs in connection with a change in control, Mr. Stoops' actual bonus paid for 2015 (the year immediately preceding the year in which the termination is deemed to have occurred).
- (2) For Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell and Hunt, this amount was calculated based on their respective minimum target bonus opportunity for 2016, which was equal to 125%, 100%, 100% and 100% of each of Messrs. Stoops', Cavanagh's, Bagwell's and Hunt's base salary, respectively.

**Table of Contents**

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION > POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE-IN-CONTROL**

- (3) Represents the value of accelerated restricted stock units and stock options. The value of the accelerated restricted stock units is calculated by multiplying the closing price of SBA's Class A common stock on December 30, 2016 (\$103.26) by the number of unvested restricted stock units as of December 31, 2016. The value of the accelerated stock options reflects the excess of the market price of our Class A common stock on December 30, 2016 (\$103.26) over the per share exercise price of any stock option which was unvested as of December 31, 2016. Our 2010 Performance and Equity Incentive Plan and our current form of award agreements provide for accelerated vesting of restricted stock units and stock options upon a change in control. However, if the employment agreement of Messrs. Stoops, Cavanagh, Bagwell or Hunt were terminated for good reason or without cause not following a Change in Control, all unvested restricted stock units would be forfeited upon their termination of service and all stock options would be forfeited within 90 days of their termination of service.
- (4) For Mr. Stoops, this amount reflects a payment equal to two times, in the event the termination occurs not in connection with a change in control, and three times, in the event the termination occurs in connection with a change in control, \$33,560.

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL 2 RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

**Introduction**

The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of our independent registered public accounting firm. To execute this responsibility, the Audit Committee engages in a comprehensive evaluation of the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications, performance and independence and whether the independent registered public accounting firm should be rotated, and considers the advisability and potential impact of selecting a different independent registered public accounting firm.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed EY to continue to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year. EY has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since 2002. In accordance with SEC rules and EY policies, audit partners are subject to rotation requirements to limit the number of consecutive years an individual partner may provide audit service to us. For lead and concurring review audit partners, the maximum number of consecutive years of service in that capacity is five years. The process for selection of our lead audit partner pursuant to this rotation policy involves a meeting between the Chair of the Audit Committee and the candidate for the role, as well as discussion by the full Audit Committee and with management.

The Audit Committee and the Board of Directors believe that the continued retention of EY as our independent registered public accounting firm is in the best interest of SBA and our shareholders, and we are asking our shareholders to ratify the selection of EY as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2017. Although ratification is not required by our Bylaws or otherwise, the Board is submitting the selection of EY to our shareholders for ratification because we value our shareholders' views on our independent registered public accounting firm and as a matter of good corporate practice. In the event our shareholders do not ratify the appointment, the appointment may be reconsidered by the Audit Committee. Ratification of the appointment of EY to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2017 fiscal year will in no way limit the Audit Committee's authority to terminate or otherwise change the engagement of EY for the 2017 fiscal year.

We expect a representative of EY to attend the Annual Meeting. The representative will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires and also will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

In connection with the audit of our 2016 financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, we entered into an agreement with EY which sets forth the terms by which EY performed audit services for us.

**Table of Contents****PROPOSAL 2 RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS****Fees Paid to EY**

We were billed for professional services provided with respect to fiscal years 2015 and 2016 by EY in the amounts set forth in the following table.

<b>Services Provided</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Audit Fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 2,150,517	\$ 2,549,803
Audit-Related Fees	-	-
Tax Fees <sup>(2)</sup>	83,800	18,500
All Other Fees	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,234,317</b>	<b>\$ 2,568,303</b>

(1) These professional services included (A) fees associated with (i) the audit of our annual financial statements (Form 10-K), (ii) reviews of our quarterly financial statements (Forms 10-Q), (iii) the audit of SBA's internal control over financial reporting in connection with SBA's compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and (iv) other statutory audits required for the years ended 2015 and 2016 and (B) \$395,000 of fees in 2015 and \$500,000 of fees in 2016 associated with (i) the preparation and review of our various documents relating to our tower securitizations in 2015 and 2016, (ii) consents to our registration statements filed in 2015, (iii) the preparation and review of documents relating to our debt offerings in 2015 and 2016, including the preparation of comfort letters, and (iv) consents to our registration statements filed in 2016 and review of our various documents relating to our REIT conversion.

(2) These professional services include fees associated with (i) transfer pricing calculations, (ii) earnings and profits calculations, (iii) a Section 382 analysis and (iv) a review relating to REIT conversion.

**Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures for Audit and Permitted Non-Audit Services**

Consistent with requirements of the SEC and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding auditor independence, the Audit Committee has responsibility for (i) appointing, (ii) negotiating, (iii) setting the compensation of and (iv) overseeing the performance of the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee's policy requires that the Audit Committee must approve any audit or permitted non-audit service proposed to be performed by its independent auditors in advance of the performance of such service. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services. The Audit Committee has not implemented a

policy or procedure which delegates the authority to approve, or pre-approve, audit or permitted non-audit services to be performed by EY. In connection with making any pre-approval decisions, the Audit Committee must consider whether the provision of such permitted non-audit services by EY is consistent with maintaining EY's status as our independent auditors.

Consistent with these policies and procedures, the Audit Committee approved all of the services rendered by EY during fiscal year 2016, as described above.

58 **SBA Communications Corporation** | **2017 Proxy Statement**



**Table of Contents**

**Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee oversees the accounting and financial reporting processes of SBA on behalf of the Board of Directors. Management has primary responsibility for SBA's financial statements, financial reporting process and internal controls over financial reporting. The independent auditors are responsible for performing an independent audit of SBA's consolidated financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and evaluating the effectiveness of internal controls and issuing reports thereon. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to select the independent auditors and monitor and oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of SBA, including SBA's internal controls over financial reporting, and the audits of the financial statements of SBA.

During the course of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017, the Audit Committee regularly met and held discussions with management and the independent auditors. In the discussions related to SBA's consolidated financial statements for fiscal year 2016, management represented to the Audit Committee that such consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with management and the independent auditors the audited consolidated financial statements for fiscal year 2016, management's annual report on internal control over financial reporting, the results of the independent auditor's testing and the evaluation of SBA's internal control over financial reporting and the independent auditor's attestation report regarding management's assessment of internal control over financial reporting.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Audit Committee discussed with the independent auditors those matters required to be discussed by the auditors with the Audit Committee under the rules adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. In addition, the Audit Committee received from the independent auditors the written disclosures and letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditor's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and the Audit Committee discussed with the independent auditors that firm's independence. In connection with this discussion, the Audit Committee also considered whether the provision of services by the independent auditors not related to the audit of SBA's financial statements for fiscal year 2016 is compatible with maintaining the independent auditors' independence. The Audit Committee's policy requires that the Audit Committee approve any audit or permitted non-audit service proposed to be performed by its independent auditors in advance of the performance of such service.

Based upon the Audit Committee's discussions with management and the independent auditors and the Audit Committee's review of the representations of management and the written disclosures and letter of the independent auditors provided to the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 be included in SBA's Annual Report on Form 10-K, for filing with the SEC.

See the portion of this proxy statement titled "Corporate Governance - Board Committees" beginning on page 15 for information on the Audit Committee's meetings in 2016.

The Audit Committee

Kevin L. Beebe

Brian C. Carr

Mary S. Chan

Duncan H. Cocroft

March 30, 2017

**SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement** 59

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL 2 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in any of our previous filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act that might incorporate future filings, including this proxy statement, in whole or in part, the Audit Committee Report above and the Compensation Committee Report above shall not be incorporated by reference into this proxy statement.*

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2017 fiscal year.

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL 3 ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

**Introduction**

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (known as the Dodd-Frank Act) requires us to provide our shareholders with the opportunity to approve, on a nonbinding, advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers.

We provide our shareholders with the opportunity to cast an annual advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and the narrative disclosures that accompany those tables. At our 2016 annual meeting, approximately 98% of the votes cast supported the Say on Pay proposal. At the 2017 Annual Meeting, we are asking our shareholders to approve, on an advisory basis, the 2016 compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement.

We encourage shareholders to review the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and the related narrative disclosure on pages 25 to 45. As discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, we believe that our compensation policies and decisions are designed to incentivize and reward the creation of shareholder value. As the chart below demonstrates, our Total Shareholder Return ( TSR ) exceeded the TSR of the 2016 Peer Group which our Compensation Committee used to set executive compensation for the five year period ended December 31, 2016.

In the past five years SBA's TSR was approximately 140%, exceeding the TSR of the NASDAQ Composite Index (approximately 120%) and the 2016 Peer Group (approximately 88%).

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL 3 ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

We believe that our executive compensation program strikes the appropriate balance between utilizing responsible, measured pay practices and effectively incentivizing our executives to dedicate themselves fully to value creation for our shareholders. This balance is evidenced by the following:

We seek to foster a pay-for-performance culture, with a significant portion of total direct compensation being performance-based and/or at risk, meaning that such portion be tied to, and vary with, our financial, operational and stock price performance, as well as individual performance. For 2016, 90% of our CEO's target total compensation and an average of 84.5% of our other named executive officers' target total compensation was performance-based or equity-based;

Realized compensation for our executives is highly correlated to TSR;

We provide a balance of short-term and long-term compensation; our annual cash incentive bonus rewards the accomplishment of annual financial, operational and strategic goals, while our equity grants vest our executives' financial interests in the long-term appreciation of our Class A common stock;

We have stock ownership guidelines that promote continued alignment of our executives' interests with those of our shareholders and discourage excessive risk taking for short-term gains; and

We review and implement our executive compensation programs within a strong corporate governance environment, including a wholly-independent compensation consultant, independent legal counsel for our Compensation Committee and independent directors.

On the basis of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and the related narrative disclosure on pages 25 to 45 of this proxy statement, we are requesting that our shareholders vote on the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the shareholders of SBA approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of SBA's named executive officers, as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section, the tabular disclosure regarding such compensation, and the accompanying narrative disclosure, set forth in SBA's 2017 Annual Meeting proxy statement.

Although this Say on Pay vote on executive compensation is non-binding, the Board and the Compensation Committee will review the results of the vote and will take into account the outcome of the vote when determining future executive compensation arrangements.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** adoption of the resolution approving the compensation of our named executive officers, as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section.

62 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL 4 ADVISORY VOTE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE ADVISORY VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

**Introduction**

The Dodd-Frank Act requires us to provide our shareholders with the opportunity to vote, on a nonbinding, advisory basis, for their preference as to whether future advisory votes on the compensation of our named executive officers should occur every one, two or three years. You have the option to vote for any of the three options, or to abstain from casting a vote.

We are required to hold a vote on the frequency of Say on Pay proposals every six years. At our 2011 annual meeting, our shareholders voted to hold an advisory vote on our executive compensation program every year. Accordingly, we have submitted Say on Pay proposals on the compensation of our named executive officers at every subsequent annual meeting.

After careful consideration, our Board recommends that we continue to conduct an advisory vote on executive compensation annually. Our Board believes that a frequency of every year for the Say on Pay vote on executive compensation is the best approach for the Company and our shareholders. An annual advisory vote provides more frequent shareholder feedback to our Board and the Compensation Committee regarding our executive compensation programs and policies. Our Board and Compensation Committee intend to consider this advisory vote as part of the design of our executive compensation programs and communication of such programs to our shareholders.

If a majority of the votes cast do not favor one of the three frequencies, the frequency that receives the most votes will be considered to be the frequency favored by shareholders.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** a frequency of **one year** for future non-binding shareholder votes on compensation of our named executive officers.

**Table of Contents****SECURITY OWNERSHIP**

The table below shows the beneficial ownership as of March 24, 2017 of our Class A common stock held by each of the directors, nominees for director, named executive officers, all current directors and executive officers as a group and each person known to us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our Class A common stock. As of March 24, 2017 we had 121,244,326 shares of Class A common stock outstanding.

Name	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(1)</sup>	Percent of Class A Common Stock
Steven E. Bernstein	220,241 <sup>(2)</sup>	*
Jeffrey A. Stoops	1,495,114 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.2%
Kevin L. Beebe	29,275 <sup>(4)</sup>	*
Brian C. Carr	8,561 <sup>(5)</sup>	*
Mary S. Chan	6,835 <sup>(6)</sup>	*
Duncan H. Cocroft	95,345 <sup>(7)</sup>	*
George R. Krouse, Jr.	19,076 <sup>(8)</sup>	*
Jack Langer	32,700 <sup>(9)</sup>	*
Kurt L. Bagwell	260,466 <sup>(10)</sup>	*
Brendan T. Cavanagh	229,321 <sup>(11)</sup>	*
Thomas P. Hunt	396,960 <sup>(12)</sup>	*
Jason V. Silberstein	100,933 <sup>(13)</sup>	*
All current directors and executive officers as a group		
(13 persons) <sup>(14)</sup>	2,946,412 <sup>(15)</sup>	2.4%
BlackRock, Inc.	9,033,657 <sup>(16)</sup>	7.5%
The Vanguard Group	9,883,144 <sup>(17)</sup>	8.2%

\* Less than 1% of outstanding shares.

Except as otherwise indicated, the address of each person named in this table is c/o SBA Communications Corporation, 8051 Congress Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33487.



- (1) In determining the number and percentage of shares beneficially owned by each person, shares that may be acquired by such person pursuant to options exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017 are deemed outstanding for purposes of determining the total number of outstanding shares for such person and are not deemed outstanding for such purpose for all other shareholders. To our knowledge, except as otherwise indicated, beneficial ownership includes sole voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares.
  
- (2) This number includes (i) 165,142 shares owned by the Bernstein Limited Partnership II ( BLP II ), an entity controlled, in part, by Mr. Bernstein and (ii) 13,400 shares owned by the Steven E. Bernstein Family Foundation Inc. (the Bernstein Family Foundation ), for which Mr. Bernstein serves as a director. This number also includes an aggregate of 10,748 shares of Class A

---

**Table of Contents****SECURITY OWNERSHIP**

common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017. Mr. Bernstein disclaims beneficial ownership of those shares owned by BLP II and the Bernstein Family Foundation, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest in BLP II. This number also includes 165,142 shares of Class A common stock which are pledged or held in a margin account, which was in compliance, as of March 24, 2017, with SBA's policy on margining Class A common stock.

- (3) This number includes (i) an aggregate of 514,084 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable within 60 days after March 24, 2017, (ii) an aggregate of 20,225 shares of Class A common stock held by four different trusts, each for the benefit of one of Mr. Stoops' four children, (iii) 489,863 shares owned by Calculated Risk Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (CRLP), of which Mr. Stoops and his spouse control the general partner, and (iv) 106,958 shares of Class A common stock held by a non-profit foundation (the Foundation), of which Mr. Stoops serves as the President and one of the two directors. Mr. Stoops disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of Class A common stock held by the trusts and CRLP, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest in CRLP. Mr. Stoops disclaims beneficial ownership of those shares of Class A common stock held by the Foundation. This number also includes 646,863 shares of Class A common stock which are pledged or held in a margin account, which was in compliance, as of March 24, 2017, with SBA's policy on margining Class A common stock. Mr. Stoops shares voting and investment power with respect to 960,805 shares of Class A common stock with his spouse.
- (4) This number includes 20,748 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017.
- (5) This number includes 6,364 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017.
- (6) This number represents 6,586 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017.
- (7) This number includes 10,748 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017. This number also includes 79,597 shares of Class A common stock which are pledged or held in a margin account, which was in compliance, as of March 24, 2017, with SBA's policy on margining Class A common stock.
- (8) This number includes 10,076 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017.

- (9) This number includes 7,090 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017. This number also includes 23,883 beneficially owned shares of Class A common stock, options and restricted stock units held by the Jack Langer 2012 Irrevocable Family Trust. The trustee of the trust is Mr. Langer's spouse. Mr. Langer disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities held by the trust, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (10) This number includes 163,180 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable within 60 days after March 24, 2017. This number also includes 97,286 shares of Class A common stock held by trust pursuant to the Kurt L. Bagwell Revocable Trust Agreement, dated July 8, 1998 and as amended and restated June 29, 2007, for the benefit of Mr. Bagwell's spouse. Mr. Bagwell is the trustee of the trust and has sole voting and investment power with respect to the 97,286 shares of Class A common stock.

**Table of Contents**

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP**

- (11) This number includes 193,129 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable within 60 days after March 24, 2017.
- (12) This number includes 255,724 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable within 60 days after March 24, 2017. Mr. Hunt shares voting and investment power with respect to 141,236 shares of Class A common stock with his spouse.
- (13) This number includes 87,141 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable within 60 days after March 24, 2017.
- (14) This number includes 51,585 shares beneficially owned by Mark Ciarfella, which includes 39,837 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable within 60 days after March 24, 2017.
- (15) This number includes 1,325,455 shares of Class A common stock issuable pursuant to options that are exercisable or restricted stock units that vest within 60 days after March 24, 2017.
- (16) According to the Schedule 13G (Amendment No. 2) filed on January 26, 2017 by BlackRock, Inc. ( BlackRock ), of the 9,033,657 shares of SBA s Class A common stock beneficially owned, BlackRock has (a) sole voting power with respect to 7,602,645 shares, and (b) sole investment power with respect to all 9,033,657 shares. The principal business address of BlackRock is 55 East 52nd Street, New York, New York 10055.
- (17) According to the Schedule 13G (Amendment No. 3) filed on February 13, 2017 by The Vanguard Group, Inc. ( Vanguard ), of the 9,883,144 shares of SBA s Class A common stock beneficially owned, Vanguard has (a) sole voting power with respect to 114,331 shares, (b) sole investment power with respect to 9,760,433 shares, and (c) shared investment power with respect to 122,711 shares. Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vanguard, is the beneficial owner of 66,637 shares of SBA s Class A common stock as a result of its serving as investment manager of collective trust accounts. Vanguard Investments Australia, Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vanguard, is the beneficial owner of 103,768 shares of SBA s Class A common stock as a result of its serving as investment manager of Australian investment offerings. The principal business address of Vanguard is 100 Vanguard Boulevard, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355.

**Table of Contents**

**OTHER MATTERS**

**Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file with the SEC and NASDAQ reports of ownership and changes in ownership of our Class A common stock. Executive officers, directors and greater than 10% shareholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based on the review of copies of such reports furnished to us and written representations that no other reports were required, we believe that, during the 2016 fiscal year, our executive officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to them, except that, due to an administrative oversight, a Form 4 for Mr. Bagwell to report a transaction involving the exercise of a stock option and disposition of shares to cover the exercise price was not timely filed.

**Shareholder Proposals and Director Nominations for 2018 Annual Meeting**

Shareholder proposals and director nominations pursuant to the advance notice provision or proxy access provision in our Bylaws should be sent to SBA at the address set forth in the Notice. To be considered for inclusion in SBA's proxy statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the deadline for submission of shareholder proposals, pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is December 8, 2017. Additionally, pursuant to the advance notice provision in our Bylaws, SBA must receive notice of any shareholder proposal or nomination for election as director to be submitted at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, but not required to be included in our proxy statement, no earlier than December 19, 2017 and no later than January 18, 2018. Our Bylaws and Annex B of the NCG Committee charter set forth the information that is required in a written notice of a shareholder proposal. Eligible stockholders who do not seek to use the advance notice provision for nomination of directors in Article I, Section 19 of our Bylaws, but who instead intend to nominate a person for election as director under the proxy access provision in our Bylaws, must comply with the provisions of and provide notice to us in accordance with Article I, Section 20 of our Bylaws. We must receive the required notice and information specified in Article I, Section 20 no later than December 8, 2017. The persons named in the proxies solicited by management may exercise discretionary voting authority with respect to such proposal.

**List of Shareholders Entitled to Vote at the Annual Meeting**

The names of shareholders of record entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be available at our corporate office for a period of 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting and continuing through the Annual Meeting.



**Table of Contents**

**OTHER MATTERS**

**Expenses Relating to this Proxy Solicitation**

We will pay all expenses relating to this proxy solicitation. In addition to this solicitation by mail, our officers, directors, and employees may solicit proxies by telephone or personal call without extra compensation for that activity. We also expect to reimburse banks, brokers and other persons for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners of our stock and obtaining the proxies of those owners.

**Communication with SBA's Board of Directors**

Shareholders may communicate with the Board of Directors by directing their communications in a hard copy (i.e., non-electronic) written form to the attention of one or more members of the Board of Directors, or to the Board of Directors collectively, at our corporate office located at 8051 Congress Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33487. A shareholder communication must include a statement that the author of such communication is a beneficial or record owner of shares of Class A common stock of SBA. Our Corporate Secretary will review all communications meeting the requirements discussed above and will remove any communications relating to (i) the purchase or sale of products or services, (ii) communications from landlords relating to our obligations or the obligations of one of our subsidiaries under a lease, (iii) communications from tenants relating to our obligations or the obligations of one of our subsidiaries under a lease, (iv) communications from suppliers or vendors relating to our obligations or the obligations of one of our subsidiaries to such supplier or vendor, (v) communications from opposing parties relating to pending or threatened legal or administrative proceedings regarding matters not related to securities law matters or fiduciary duty matters, and (vi) any other communications that the Corporate Secretary deems, in his or her reasonable discretion, unrelated to the business of SBA. The Corporate Secretary will compile all communications not removed in accordance with the procedure described above and will distribute such qualifying communications to the intended recipient(s). A copy of any qualifying communications that relate to our accounting and auditing practices will also be sent directly to the Chair of the Audit Committee, whether or not it was directed to such person.

**Available Information**

We maintain an internet website at [www.sbasite.com](http://www.sbasite.com). Copies of the Committee charters of each of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and NCG Committee, together with certain other corporate governance materials, including our Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct, can be found under the Investor Relations Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.sbasite.com](http://www.sbasite.com), and such information is also available in print to any shareholder who requests it through our Investor Relations department at the address below.

We will furnish without charge to each person whose proxy is being solicited, upon request of any such person, a copy of the 2016 Form 10-K as filed with the SEC, including the financial statements and schedules thereto, but not the

exhibits. In addition, such report is available, free of charge, through the Investor Relations Corporate Governance section of our internet website at [www.sbsite.com](http://www.sbsite.com). A request for a copy of such report should be directed to SBA Communications Corporation, 8051 Congress Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33487, Attention: Investor Relations. A copy of any exhibit to the 2016 Form 10-K will be forwarded following receipt of a written request with respect thereto addressed to Investor Relations.

68 [SBA Communications Corporation](#) | [2017 Proxy Statement](#)



**Table of Contents**

**OTHER MATTERS**

**Electronic Delivery**

This year we again have elected to take advantage of the SEC's rule that allows us to furnish proxy materials to you online. We believe electronic delivery will expedite shareholders' receipt of materials, while lowering costs and reducing the environmental impact of our Annual Meeting by reducing printing and mailing of full sets of materials. We mailed the Notice containing instructions on how to access our proxy statement and annual report online on or about April 7, 2017. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the proxy materials, the Notice contains instructions on how to receive a paper copy.

**Householding**

We have adopted a procedure approved by the SEC called "householding." Under this procedure, shareholders of record who have the same address and last name will receive only one copy of our Notice, unless one or more of these shareholders notifies us that they wish to continue receiving individual copies. This procedure will reduce our printing costs and postage fees.

If you are eligible for householding, but you and other shareholders of record with whom you share an address currently receive multiple copies of the Notice, or if you hold stock in more than one account, and in either case you wish to receive only a single copy of the Notice for your household, please contact our transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A. in writing: 210 Quality Circle, Suite 210, College Station, TX 77845, or by telephone: in the U.S., (800) 446-2617; outside the U.S., (781) 575-4706.

If you participate in householding and wish to receive a separate copy of the Notice, or if you do not wish to participate in householding and prefer to receive separate copies of the Notice in the future, please contact Computershare as indicated above. Beneficial shareholders can request information about householding from their nominee.

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT A GAAP TO NON-GAAP RECONCILIATIONS****Exhibit A****GAAP to Non-GAAP Reconciliations**

For more information regarding the measures included in this Exhibit A, please see our annual report that accompanies this proxy statement.

**Tower Cash Flow and Tower Cash Flow Margin**

We believe that Tower Cash Flow and Tower Cash Flow Margin are indicators of the performance of our site leasing operations. The tables below set forth the reconciliation of Tower Cash Flow to its most comparable GAAP measurement.

	<b>For the year</b>				
	<b>ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>				
Site leasing revenue	\$ 1,538,070	\$ 1,480,634	\$ 1,360,202	\$ 1,133,013	\$ 846,094
Site leasing cost of revenue (excluding depreciation, accretion, and amortization)	342,215	(324,655)	(301,313)	(270,772)	(188,951)
Site leasing segment operating profit	1,195,855	1,155,979	1,058,891	862,241	657,143
Non-cash straight-line leasing revenue	(31,650)	(49,064)	(56,866)	(65,611)	(52,009)
Non-cash straight-line ground lease expense	34,708	34,204	36,271	33,621	22,463
Tower Cash Flow	\$ 1,198,913	\$ 1,141,119	\$ 1,038,296	\$ 830,251	\$ 627,597

	<b>For the quarter ended</b>				
	<b>12/31/2016</b>	<b>12/31/2015</b>	<b>12/31/2014</b>	<b>12/31/2013</b>	<b>12/31/2012</b>

**(in thousands)**

Site leasing revenue	\$ 393,609	\$ 368,452	\$ 361,421	\$ 292,525	\$ 260,762
Non-cash straight-line leasing revenue	(6,695)	(9,963)	(14,133)	(14,721)	(20,100)
Cash site leasing revenue	386,914	358,489	347,288	277,804	240,662
Site leasing cost of revenues (excluding depreciation, accretion, and amortization)	(86,606)	(81,357)	(78,264)	(66,844)	(62,164)
Non-cash straight-line ground lease expense	8,097	8,410	8,901	6,635	8,464
Tower Cash Flow	\$ 308,405	\$ 285,542	\$ 277,925	\$ 217,595	\$ 186,962
Annualized Tower Cash Flow for the quarter ended	\$ 1,233,620	\$ 1,142,168	\$ 1,111,700	\$ 870,380	\$ 747,848
Tower Cash Flow Margin	79.7%	79.7%	80.0%	78.3%	77.7%

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT A GAAP TO NON-GAAP RECONCILIATIONS****Adjusted EBITDA, Annualized Adjusted EBITDA and Annualized Adjusted EBITDA Margin**

We believe that Adjusted EBITDA, Annualized Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA Margin are useful indicators of the financial performance of our core businesses. The tables below set forth the reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA, Annualized Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA margin to their most comparable GAAP measurement.

*Adjusted EBITDA*

	<b>For the year</b>				
	<b>ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>				
Net income (loss)	\$ 76,238	\$ (175,656)	\$ (24,295)	\$ (55,909)	\$ (181,390)
Non-cash straight-line leasing revenue	(31,650)	(49,064)	(56,867)	(65,611)	(52,009)
Non-cash straight-line ground lease expense	34,708	34,204	36,271	33,621	22,463
Non-cash compensation	32,915	28,748	22,671	17,205	13,968
Loss from extinguishment of debt, net	52,701	783	26,204	6,099	51,799
Other (income ) / expense	(94,278)	139,137	(10,628)	(31,138)	(5,654)
Acquisition related adjustments and expenses	13,140	11,864	7,798	19,198	40,433
Asset impairment and decommission costs	30,242	94,783	23,801	28,960	6,383
Interest income	(10,928)	(3,894)	(677)	(1,794)	(1,128)
Interest expense <sup>(1)</sup>	352,510	343,025	337,284	313,696	279,221
Depreciation, accretion, and amortization	638,189	660,221	627,072	533,334	408,467
Provision (benefit) for taxes <sup>(2)</sup>	12,708	10,827	10,120	(492)	7,689
Income from discontinued operations	-	-	-	-	(2,296)
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 1,106,495	\$ 1,094,777	\$ 998,754	\$ 797,169	\$ 587,946
Oi Reserve <sup>(3)</sup>	16,498				
Adjusted EBITDA net of the Oi Reserve	\$ 1,122,993	\$ 1,094,777	\$ 998,754	\$ 797,169	\$ 587,946

- (1) Interest expense includes interest expense, non-cash interest expense, and amortization of deferred financing fees.
- (2) Provision (benefit) for taxes includes \$1,643, \$1,766, \$1,485, \$817, and \$1,095 of franchise taxes reflected in selling, general, and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statement of Operations for the year ended 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively.
- (3) Oi Reserve represents a bad debt provision related to amounts owed or potentially owed by Oi S.A. as of June 20, 2016, the date Oi S.A. filed a petition for judicial reorganization in Brazil.

A-2 **SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement**

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT A GAAP TO NON-GAAP RECONCILIATIONS***Annualized Adjusted EBITDA*

	<b>For the quarter ended</b>				
	<b>12/31/2016</b>	<b>12/31/2015</b>	<b>12/31/2014</b>	<b>12/31/2013</b>	<b>12/31/2012</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>				
Net income (loss)	\$ 5,256	\$ 31,019	\$ 388	\$ (19,164)	\$ (52,586)
Non-cash straight-line leasing revenue	(6,695)	(9,963)	(14,133)	(14,721)	(20,100)
Non-cash straight-line ground lease expense	8,097	8,410	8,901	6,635	8,464
Non-cash compensation	8,163	6,845	5,440	4,195	3,382
Loss from extinguishment of debt, net	18,189	783	1,124	336	2,007
Other (income ) / expense	(2,139)	(39,572)	9,758	3,736	(422)
Acquisition related adjustments and expenses	4,167	4,380	(2,930)	7,821	18,558
Asset impairment and decommission costs	7,063	20,598	10,247	12,555	3,828
Interest income	(3,224)	(1,610)	(249)	(182)	(709)
Total interest expense	84,063	89,561	81,644	77,469	80,918
Depreciation, accretion and amortization	158,554	161,461	162,214	133,328	131,357
Provision for taxes	5,523	2,411	4,288	(2,628)	2,267
Income from discontinued operations	-	-	-	-	52
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 287,017	\$ 274,323	\$ 266,692	\$ 209,380	\$ 177,016
Annualized Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 1,148,068	\$ 1,097,292	\$ 1,066,768	\$ 837,520	\$ 708,064

*Annualized Adjusted EBITDA Margin*

	<b>For the quarter ended</b>				
	<b>12/31/2016</b>	<b>12/31/2015</b>	<b>12/31/2014</b>	<b>12/31/2013</b>	<b>12/31/2012</b>

**(in thousands)**

Annualized Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 1,148,068	\$ 1,097,292	\$ 1,066,768	\$ 837,520	\$ 708,064
Total revenues for three months ended	416,505	406,941	404,734	335,396	293,841
Non-cash straight-line leasing revenue for three months ended	(6,695)	(9,963)	(14,133)	(14,721)	(20,100)
Cash site leasing revenue for three months ended	409,810	396,978	390,601	320,675	273,741
Annualized Adjusted EBITDA Margin	70.0%	69.1%	68.3%	65.3%	64.7%

**SBA Communications Corporation | 2017 Proxy Statement** A-3

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT A GAAP TO NON-GAAP RECONCILIATIONS****Funds From Operations, Adjusted Funds From Operations and Adjusted Funds From Operations per Share**

We believe that FFO, AFFO, and AFFO per share provide investors useful indicators of the financial performance of our core business. The tables below set forth the reconciliations of FFO and AFFO to their most comparable GAAP measurement.

	<b>For the year</b>				
	<b>ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>				
Net income (loss)	\$ 76,238	\$ (175,656)	\$ (24,295)	\$ (55,909)	\$ (181,390)
Less: Net loss from discontinued operations	-	-	-	-	(2,296)
Real estate related depreciation, amortization and accretion	632,985	653,990	621,208	528,730	404,707
<b>FFO</b>	<b>\$ 709,223</b>	<b>\$ 478,334</b>	<b>\$ 599,617</b>	<b>\$ 472,821</b>	<b>\$ 221,021</b>
<b>Adjustments to FFO:</b>					
Non-cash straight-line leasing revenue	(31,650)	(49,064)	(56,867)	(65,611)	(52,009)
Non-cash straight-line ground lease expense	34,708	34,204	36,271	33,621	22,463
Non-cash compensation	32,915	28,747	22,671	17,205	13,968
Adjustment for non-cash portion of tax provision <sup>(1)</sup>	1,409	2,211	2,705	(6,503)	4,452
Non-real estate related depreciation, amortization and accretion	5,204	6,031	5,862	4,603	3,760
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discounts	23,339	20,659	44,684	64,645	82,980
Interest deemed paid upon conversion of convertible notes	-	-	-	4,195	-
Loss from extinguishment of debt, net	52,701	783	26,204	6,099	51,799
Other (income) expense	(94,278)	139,137	(10,628)	(31,138)	(5,654)
Acquisition related adjustments and expenses	13,140	11,863	7,798	19,198	40,433
Asset impairment and decommission costs	30,242	94,783	23,801	28,960	6,383



Edgar Filing: SBA COMMUNICATIONS CORP - Form DEF 14A

Non-discretionary cash capital expenditures	(32,452)	(33,600)	(27,243)	(18,980)	(12,286)
AFFO	\$ 744,501	\$ 734,088	\$ 679,709	\$ 529,115	\$ 377,310
Oi Reserve	16,498	-	-	-	-
AFFO net of the Oi Reserve	760,999	734,088	679,709	529,115	377,310
Weighted average number of common shares <sup>(2)</sup>	125,144	128,918	130,061	129,033	121,701
AFFO per share	\$ 5.95	\$ 5.69	\$ 5.23	\$ 4.10	\$ 3.10
AFFO per share net of the Oi reserve	\$ 6.08	\$ 5.69	\$ 5.23	\$ 4.10	\$ 3.10

- (1) Adjusts the income tax provision during the period, to reflect our estimate of cash income taxes (primarily foreign taxes) that would have been payable had we been a REIT.
- (2) For purposes of the AFFO per share calculation, the basic weighted average number of common shares has been adjusted to include the dilutive effect of stock options and restricted stock units.

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT A GAAP TO NON-GAAP RECONCILIATIONS****Return on Invested Capital**

We believe that Return on Invested Capital ( ROIC ) is useful to investors as a measure of the effectiveness of the use of capital in our operations. The table below sets forth the reconciliation of ROIC.

	<b>For the year</b>				
	<b>ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>				
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 1,122,993 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 1,094,777	\$ 998,754	\$ 797,169	\$ 587,946
Less: Cash taxes	(9,656)	(6,851)	(5,916)	(5,194)	(2,142)
Numerator	\$ 1,113,337	\$ 1,087,926	\$ 992,838	\$ 791,975	\$ 585,804
Historical Gross Property and Equipment	5,490,325	5,179,356	4,842,784	4,363,339	4,173,456
Historical Gross Intangibles	5,761,678	5,435,396	5,510,211	4,372,947	3,851,304
Denominator	\$ 11,252,003	\$ 10,614,752	\$ 10,352,995	\$ 8,736,286	\$ 8,024,760
Return on Invested Capital	9.9%	10.2%	9.6%	9.1%	7.3%

<sup>(1)</sup> Excludes Oi Reserve.

Table of Contents

**SBA COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION**

**THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON**

**MAY 18, 2017**

The undersigned shareholder acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and hereby appoints Steven E. Bernstein and Jeffrey A. Stoops or either of them, proxies for the undersigned, each with full power of substitution, to vote all of the undersigned's shares of Class A common stock of SBA Communications Corporation ( SBA ) at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at SBA's corporate office, 8051 Congress Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., local time, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

**PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE PROXY IN THE ENVELOPE ENCLOSED. THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED IN THE MANNER DIRECTED HEREIN BY THE SHAREHOLDER. IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR PROPOSAL 1, PROPOSAL 2 and PROPOSAL 3 AND FOR THE ONE YEAR OPTION IN PROPOSAL 4. THIS PROXY WILL REVOKE ALL PRIOR PROXIES SIGNED BY YOU.**

**(Please Sign on Reverse Side)**

**Address Change/Comments (Mark the corresponding box on the reverse side)**

**h FOLD AND DETACH HERE h**

**The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the director nominees in proposal 1, FOR proposals 2 and 3 and FOR the one year option in Proposal 4. If no specification is made, the shares will be voted in accordance with such Board of Directors recommendation.**

**1. Election of Director Nominees:**

**For a three-year term expiring at the 2020 Annual Meeting:**

Please Mark Here for Address  
Change or Comments

SEE REVERSE SIDE

**3. Approval, on an advisory  
basis, of the compensation of  
SBA's named executive officers.**

FOR      AGAINST      ABSTAIN

**4. Approval, on an advisory basis, of the frequency of future advisory votes on the compensation of our named executive officers.**

1a. Steven E. Bernstein FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN

3 YEAR 2 YEAR 1 YEAR A

1b. Duncan H. Cocroft FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN

**2. Ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as SBA s independent registered public accounting firm for the 2017 fiscal year.**

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN

**Table of Contents**

**Note.** Such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any postponements or adjournments thereof.

**If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please mark the WILL ATTEND box**

**WILL ATTEND**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature should agree with name printed hereon. If stock is held in the name of more than one person, EACH joint owner should sign. Executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, and attorneys should indicate the capacity in which they sign. Attorneys should submit powers of attorney.

**h FOLD AND DETACH HERE h**

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INTERNET OR TELEPHONE PROXY SUBMISSION,**

**BOTH ARE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.**

Internet and telephone proxy submission is available through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

the day prior to Annual Meeting day.

Your Internet or telephone proxy submission authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares in the same manner as if you marked, signed and returned your proxy card.

**INTERNET**

**OR**

**TELEPHONE**

If you submit your proxy by Internet or by telephone, you do NOT need to mail back your proxy card.

To submit a proxy by mail, mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

**SBA s proxy statement and annual report are available online at [www.edocumentview.com/SBAC](http://www.edocumentview.com/SBAC).**