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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 10, 2021**

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**Amerant Bancorp Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Florida**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**001-38534**  
(Commission  
file number)

**65-0032379**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification Number)

**220 Alhambra Circle**  
**Coral Gables, Florida 33134**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**(305) 460-8728**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbols</u>	<u>Name of exchange on which registered</u>
Class A Common Stock	AMTB	NASDAQ
Class B Common Stock	AMTBB	NASDAQ

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On March 10, 2021, the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Amerant Bancorp Inc. (the “Company”) increased the size of the Board of the Company from eleven members to twelve members and appointed Dolores M. Lare as a Company director, effective April 1, 2021. Mrs. Lare will also serve as a director of Amerant Bank, N.A., the Company’s principal subsidiary, and will become a member of the Company’s Audit and Risk committees.

Patriot Financial Partners, L.P. (“Patriot”), a private equity fund specializing in investments in the financial services sector, which purchased Company Class A common stock in the Company’s December 2018 initial public offering, asked the Company to consider appointing Mrs. Lare as an additional independent director to the Company’s Board in light of the recent appointment of Mr. Plush, previously a partner with Patriot, as Executive Vice Chairman and his upcoming role as Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Following review and consideration by the Company’s Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and the Company’s and such committee’s criteria for directors, and to compliance, to the Company’s satisfaction, of all applicable laws, as well as Nasdaq requirements, the Board appointed Mrs. Lare, a partner with Patriot, as a director.

Mrs. Lare does not have any transactions reportable under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

As a newly appointed non-employee director of the Board in 2021, Mrs. Lare is entitled to a pro-rata portion of the \$46,000 annual retainer for her service on the Board, a pro-rata portion of the \$28,000 annual retainer for her service on two Company Board committees. These amounts will be pro-rated for 2021 based upon Mrs. Lare’s time of service as a Company director. Mrs. Lare will also be entitled to any annual equity compensation, in the form of restricted stock units. At Mrs. Lare’s request, her retainer and compensation, including any equity compensation, will be paid to Patriot.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>
99.1	<a href="#">Press Release, dated March 15, 2021</a>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: March 15, 2021

Amerant Bancorp Inc.

By: /s/ Julio V. Pena  
Name: Julio V. Pena  
Title: Senior Vice President and Assistant Corporate Secretary

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**CONTACTS:**

Investors

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Media

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**AMERANT BANCORP APPOINTS DOLORES M. LARE AS A DIRECTOR**

**Coral Gables, Florida**, March 15, 2021 - Amerant Bancorp Inc. (NASDAQ: AMTB and AMTBB) (the “Company”) and its subsidiary, Amerant Bank, N.A. (the “Bank”), announced they have appointed Dolores M. Lare as an independent director of the Company and the Bank, effective April 1, 2021. Mrs. Lare will serve on the Board’s Audit and Risk Committees as well.

Mrs. Lare has more than 35 years of banking experience. Currently, Mrs. Lare is a Partner at Patriot Financial Partners, L.P., a private equity firm focused on investing in community banks and financial services related companies throughout the United States (“Patriot”). Prior to joining Patriot, she served as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President for Continental Bank Holdings, Inc. She has held other key executive level positions, including Executive Vice President, Director, Operational and Technology Services at Progress Bank and Chief Operating Officer at Prime Bank. Mrs. Lare started her banking career and held a variety of positions at PNC Bank and its predecessor banks. She also serves on the Boards of Elderlife Financial Services (Rockville, MD), Auxilor Capital Partners (Plymouth Meeting, PA), and First National Bancshares and First National Bank of America (East Lansing, MI).

“It is a pleasure to welcome Dolores, who has significant multifaceted banking and financial services knowledge and experience,” said Frederick C. Copeland, Jr., Chairman of Amerant Bancorp Inc. “Her extensive executive leadership experience in the banking and financial services industry will bring valuable insight to our Board as we make continued progress in our plans to build deeper customer relationships, sustainable, profitable growth, and drive shareholder value.”

“Amerant is committed to creating a uniquely personal community banking experience for its customers and I am honored to be part of such an exceptional financial organization,” said Mrs. Lare. “I look forward to working with our Board and senior management and contributing to the success of the organization.”

**About Amerant Bancorp Inc.**

The Company is a bank holding company headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida since 1979. The Company operates through its main subsidiaries, Amerant Bank, N.A. (the “Bank”), Amerant Investments, Inc., Amerant Trust, N.A., Elant Bank and Trust Ltd. and Amerant Mortgage, LLC. The Company provides individuals and businesses in the U.S., as well as select international clients, with deposit, credit and wealth management services. The Bank, which has operated for over 40 years, is the second largest community bank

headquartered in Florida. The Bank operates 25 banking centers – 18 in South Florida and 7 in the Houston, Texas area, as well as a commercial real estate loan production office in New York City.

Visit our investor relations page at <https://investor.amerantbank.com> for additional information.

### **Cautionary Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including statements with respect to our objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be forward-looking statements. You can identify these forward-looking statements through our use of words such as “may,” “will,” “anticipate,” “assume,” “should,” “indicate,” “would,” “believe,” “contemplate,” “expect,” “estimate,” “continue,” “plan,” “point to,” “project,” “could,” “intend,” “target,” “goals,” “outlooks,” “modeled,” and other similar words and expressions of the future.

Forward-looking statements, including those as to our beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, expectations, anticipations, estimates and intentions, involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may be beyond our control, and which may cause the Company’s actual results, performance, achievements, or financial condition to be materially different from future results, performance, achievements, or financial condition expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. You should not rely on any forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. You should not expect us to update any forward-looking statements, except as required by law. All written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary notice, together with those risks and uncertainties described in “Risk factors” in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2020 and in our other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), which are available at the SEC’s website [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).