

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>Smith Braden</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O AMERANT BANCORP INC.</u> <u>220 ALHAMBRA CR., 12TH FLOOR</u> (Street) <u>CORAL</u> <u>FL</u> <u>33134</u> <u>GABLES</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>11/18/2024</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Amerant Bancorp Inc. [AMTB]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>See remarks</u></p>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
<u>Class A Common Stock</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>D</u>	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Business Development Officer. A power of attorney for Section 16 reporting obligations is attached as Exhibit 24.

/s/ Julio V. Pena, as Attorney-in-Fact for Braden Smith 11/20/2024

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR SECTION 13 AND SECTION 16 REPORTING

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that the undersigned hereby makes, constitutes and appoints Jerry Plush, Sharymar Calderon, S. Marshall Martin, Julio V. Pena, and Patricia Argibay of Amerant Bancorp Inc. (the "Company"), as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact (the "Attorney-in-Fact"), with full power of substitution and resubstitution, each with the power to act alone for the undersigned and in the undersigned's name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to:

1. Prepare, execute and submit to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), any national securities exchange or securities quotation system and the Company any and all reports (including any amendment thereto) of the undersigned required or considered advisable under Section 13 or Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and the rules and regulations thereunder, with respect to the equity securities of the Company, including Forms 3, 4 and 5 and Schedule 13D or 13G; and

2. Obtain, as the undersigned's representative and on the undersigned's behalf, information regarding transactions in the Company's equity securities from any third party, including the Company and any brokers, dealers, employee benefit plan administrators and trustees, and the undersigned hereby authorizes any such third party to release any such information to the Attorney-in-Fact.

The undersigned acknowledges that:

(a) This Limited Power of Attorney authorizes, but does not require, the Attorney-in-Fact to act at his or her discretion on information provided to such Attorney-in-Fact without independent verification of such information;

(b) Any documents prepared or executed by the Attorney-in-Fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Limited Power of Attorney will be in such form and will contain such information as the Attorney-in-Fact, in his or her discretion, deems necessary or desirable;

(c) Neither the Company nor the Attorney-in-Fact assumes any liability for the undersigned's responsibility to comply with the requirements of Section 13 or Section 16 of the Exchange Act, any liability of the undersigned for any failure to comply with such requirements, or any liability of the undersigned for disgorgement of profits under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act; and

(d) This Limited Power of Attorney does not relieve the undersigned from responsibility for compliance with the undersigned's obligations under Section 13 or Section 16 of the Exchange Act, including, without limitation, the reporting requirements under Section 13 or Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

The undersigned hereby grants to the Attorney-in-Fact full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite, necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the foregoing, as fully, to all intents and purposes, as the undersigned might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that the Attorney-in-Fact, or his or her substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by authority of this Limited Power of Attorney.

This Limited Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 4 or 5 or Schedule 13D or 13G with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in equity securities of the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the Attorney-in-Fact. This Limited Power of Attorney revokes all previous powers of attorney with respect to the subject matter of this Limited Power of Attorney.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Limited Power of Attorney as of November 15, 2024.

/s/ Braden Smith

(Signature)

Name: Braden Smith

Title: SEVP and Chief Business Development Officer
