

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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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

Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan for the purchase or sale of equity securities of the issuer that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|----------|--|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Amerant Bancorp Inc. [AMTB]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/17/2026</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director | 10% Owner |
| C/O AMERANT BANCORP INC. 220 ALHAMBRA CR., 12TH FLOOR | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) SEVP, Chief Credit Officer | Other (specify below) |
| (Street) CORAL GABLES FL 33134 | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | <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 Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--------|------------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | |

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|-----|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| Restricted Stock Units LTI 2026 | \$0 ⁽¹⁾ | 02/17/2026 | | A | | 6,071 | | (2) | (2) | Class A Common Stock | 6,071 | \$0 | 6,071 | D | |
| Performance Based Restricted Stock Units LTI 2026 | \$0 ⁽³⁾ | 02/17/2026 | | A | | 6,071 | | (4) | (4) | Class A Common Stock | 6,071 | \$0 | 6,071 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Each restricted stock unit ("RSU") is the economic equivalent of one share of Class A Common Stock.
2. On February 17, 2026, Ms. Cragg was awarded 6,071 RSUs, each representing the right to receive, following vesting, one share of Class A Common Stock. The award vests in substantially equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant, provided that Ms. Cragg remains in the continuous service of the Company or a subsidiary through each such date.
3. Each performance-based restricted stock unit ("PSU") is the economic equivalent of one share of Class A Common Stock.
4. PSUs awarded to Ms. Cragg, each representing the right to receive, following vesting, one share of Class A Common Stock. The actual number of PSUs earned shall be based on the achievement of the Relative Adjusted Return on Average Tangible Common Equity at a Threshold, Target or Maximum level set by the Compensation and Human Capital Committee (the "Committee") further modified by the achievement of specified Threshold, Target or Maximum levels set by the Committee of Relative Total Shareholder Return for a 3-year period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2028, and in general can range from 40% to 180% of the PSUs. The number reported reflects the target number of PSUs Ms. Cragg may earn.

Remarks:

/s/ Julio Pena, as Attorney-in-Fact 02/19/2026
for Lee Ann Cragg

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 4 (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.