

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

DIVISION OF CORPORATION FINANCE

September 20, 2010

## VIA U.S. MAIL AND FACSIMILE (314) 633-4289

Ronald M. Shaich Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Panera Bread Company 6710 Clayton Road Richmond Heights, MO 63117

> Re: Panera Bread Company Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2009 Filed March 1, 2010 File No. 000-19253

Dear Mr. Shaich:

We have reviewed your response to our comment letter dated August 2, 2010 and have the following additional comments.

## Schedule 14A

## Compensation Discussion and Analysis, page 19

- 1. We note your response to our prior comment 2 and reissue. Please provide us with additional detailed analysis of how disclosure of the specific company-wide metrics would result in competitive harm to you. In your response, please identify each target that comprises the annual incentive bonus and provide your analysis of how disclosure of each of the performance targets might be expected to affect the particular business decisions of your competitors, and in so doing, place you at a competitive disadvantage. We may have further comment upon review of your response.
- 2. We note your response to our prior comment 3 and reissue in part. Please confirm that in future filings you will disclose the substance of your response to our comment.

Ronald M. Shaich Panera Bread Company September 20, 2010 Page 2

Please contact J. Nolan McWilliams at (202) 551-3217 or me at (202) 551-3469 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Justin T. Dobbie Special Counsel

cc: Jeffrey W. Kip Clark W. Petscheck