

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0104
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Bhalla Anant</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY  (Street) WEST DES MOINES IA 50266  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 01/27/2020	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [ AEL ]</u>		5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 02/04/2020
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) President		
		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)
Common Stock	18,727 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	

**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				
Options - Right to Buy	01/27/2025	01/27/2030	Options - Right to Buy 50,000	26.7	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. An award of restricted stock units pursuant to the American Equity Investment Life Holding Company 2016 Employee Incentive Plan, 50% of which vest one year from date of grant; and 50% vest two years from date of grant.

**Remarks:**

Renee D. Montz, by Power of Attorney 02/04/2020

\*\* 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.

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, the undersigned director and officer of American Equity Investment Life Holding Company, an Iowa corporation, hereby constitutes and appoints Renee D. Montz, his true and lawful attorney and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, in the name of and on behalf of each of the undersigned, to do any and all acts and things that execute any and all reports of stock ownership on Form 3, Form 4 and/or Form 5, and all such related instruments which such attorneys and agents may deem necessary or advisable to enable American Equity Investment Life Holding Company to comply with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and any rules and regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission in respect thereof, in connection with reports to be filed by certain beneficial owners of securities under Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including specifically, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the power and authority to sign the name of the undersigned in his capacity as a director and officer of American Equity Investment Life Holding Company to one or more Forms 3, 4 or 5 to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect thereto, any and all amendments, including post-effective amendments, to such Forms and to any and all instruments and documents filed as part of or in connection with such Forms or amendments thereto; hereby ratifying and confirming all that such agent and attorney has done, shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of January, 2020.



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Anant Bhalla

