

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

FORM 8-K

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 4, 2025

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	1-13991 (Commission File Number)	13-3974868 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
One Vanderbilt Avenue, 48th Floor New York, New York (Address of principal executive offices)		10017 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 207-6400

Not Applicable
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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:

Title of each class:	Trading Symbols:	Name of each exchange on which registered:
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	MFA	New York Stock Exchange
7.50% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	MFA/PB	New York Stock Exchange
6.50% Series C Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	MFA/PC	New York Stock Exchange
8.875% Senior Notes due 2029	MFAN	New York Stock Exchange
9.000% Senior Notes due 2029	MFAO	New York Stock Exchange

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

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.

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

(d) *Election of Christopher Small to Board of Directors.* On March 4, 2025, MFA Financial, Inc. (the “Company”) announced that its Board of Directors (the “Board”) has elected Christopher Small as a director of the Company effective as of such date. Mr. Small fills the vacancy on the Board created by the passing of Francis J. Oelerich III in December 2024. In connection with Mr. Small’s election, the Board has appointed him to serve on each of the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee of the Board. A copy of the press release reporting on Mr. Small’s election is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

[99.1 Press Release, dated March 4, 2025, regarding the election of Christopher Small to the Board of Directors of MFA Financial, Inc.](#)

104 Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL).

SIGNATURE

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.

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
(REGISTRANT)

By: /s/ Harold E. Schwartz

Name: Harold E. Schwartz

Title: Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Date: March 4, 2025

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release, dated March 4, 2025, announcing the election of Christopher Small to the Board of Directors of MFA Financial Inc.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL).

MFA
FINANCIAL, INC.



One Vanderbilt Avenue
48th Floor
New York, New York 10017
(212) 207-6400

PRESS RELEASE**March 4, 2025**

**CONTACT: InvestorRelations@mfafinancial.com
212-207-6488
www.mfafinancial.com**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**NEW YORK METRO****NYSE: MFA****MFA Financial, Inc. Elects Christopher Small to Board of Directors**

NEW YORK – MFA Financial, Inc. (NYSE: MFA) announced today that its Board of Directors has elected Christopher Small to its Board effective immediately.

“We couldn’t be more pleased to welcome Chris Small to the MFA Board,” said Laurie Goodman, MFA’s Board Chair. “Chris’s extensive experience in investment banking and capital markets working with residential mortgage finance and other specialty finance firms will provide significant benefits to MFA’s Board, management team and stockholders. We look forward to having Chris’s expertise and perspective as we further strengthen our Board with his addition.”

Mr. Small, 47, has, since October 2022, served as Chief Executive Officer of Black Owl Managing, LLC, a family investment office. From 2010 to 2022 Mr. Small worked in investment banking at Wells Fargo Securities, where he served in various roles of increasing responsibility, including most recently as Managing Director and Head of Diversified Financials for FIG Corporate and Investment Banking from 2019 to 2022 and Managing Director and Head of Financial Institutions Group Investment Banking from 2018 to 2019. While at Wells Fargo, Mr. Small had coverage responsibilities for several companies across the mortgage finance industry, including mortgage REITs, origination platforms and mortgage servicers. Prior to his tenure at Wells Fargo, Mr. Small served as an investment professional at American Capital, Ltd., an alternative investment platform, from 2007 to 2009. Mr. Small began his career in investment banking at JMP Securities LLC, where he worked from 2003 to 2007. Mr. Small received an A.B. degree from Princeton University.

In connection with his election to the Board, Mr. Small will also serve on the Audit Committee and Compensation Committee of the Board.

MFA Financial, Inc. is a leading specialty finance company that invests in residential mortgage loans, residential mortgage-backed securities and other real estate assets. Through its wholly owned subsidiary, Lima One Capital, MFA also originates and services business purpose loans for real estate investors. MFA has distributed over \$4.8 billion in dividends to stockholders since its initial public offering in 1998. MFA is an internally managed, publicly traded real estate investment trust.
