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): December 15, 2021

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| Maryland | 1-13 | 991 | 13-3974868 | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| (State or other jurisdiction | (Commission] | File Number) | (IRS Employer | |
| of incorporation or organization) | | | Identification No.) | |
| One Vanderbilt Avenue, 48th Floor New York, New York | | | 10017 | |
| (Address of principal executive offices) | | | (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 | Name of each exchange on which |
|--|----------|-----------------------------------|
| | Symbols: | 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 |

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 Sheila A. Stamps to Board of Directors.* On December 15, 2021, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of MFA Financial, Inc. (the "Company") elected Sheila A. Stamps as a director of the Company effective as of such date. Ms. Stamps fills the vacancy created by the Board's decision to increase the size of the Board from seven (7) directors to eight (8) directors. In connection with her election, the Board has appointed Ms. Stamps to serve on each of the Compensation Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board. A copy of the press release reporting on Ms. Stamps' 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 December 15, 2021, regarding the election of Sheila A. Stamps 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: December 16, 2021

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|---|
| <u>99.1</u> | Press Release, dated December 15, 2021, announcing the election of Sheila A. Stamps 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 December 15, 2021 CONTACT: InvestorRelations@mfafinancial.com 212-207-6488 www.mfafinancial.com FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NEW YORK METRO NYSE: MFA

MFA Financial, Inc. Elects Sheila A. Stamps to Board of Directors

NEW YORK - MFA Financial, Inc. (NYSE: MFA) announced today that its Board of Directors has elected Sheila A. Stamps to its Board effective immediately.

"We couldn't be more pleased to welcome Sheila to the MFA Board," said Laurie Goodman, MFA's Board Chair. "Her extensive involvement across a broad mix of industries, as well as her experience in strategy, business development, risk management and regulatory matters, will provide significant benefits to MFA's management team, Board and stockholders. We look forward to having Sheila's expertise and perspective as we diversify and further strengthen our Board with her addition."

Ms. Stamps currently serves on the Board of Directors of Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc., a leading global provider of outsourced aircraft and aviation operating services, where she also serves as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, and Pitney Bowes Inc., a global shipping and mailing company that provides services to businesses and governments, where she also serves on the Audit and Executive Compensation Committees. Ms. Stamps also serves on the Board of CIT Group, Inc., a financial holding company, where she serves as a member of the Audit and Nominating & Governance Committees, as well as a member of the Board of CIT's subsidiary, CIT Bank, N.A. Ms. Stamps was also recently named to Savoy Magazine's 2021 Most Influential Black Corporate Directors.

From 2014 to 2018 Ms. Stamps served as a Commissioner and Audit Committee Chair on the Board of the New York State Insurance Fund, the state's largest workers' compensation insurance provider. From 2011 to 2012 she served as Executive Vice President at DBI, LLC, a private mortgage investment company. From 2008 to 2011 Ms. Stamps served as Director of Pension Investments and Cash Management at the New York State Common Retirement Fund, and from 2004 to 2005 she was a Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. From 2003 to 2004, Ms. Stamps served as a Managing Director and Head of Relationship Management, Financial Institutions at Bank of America Corp. (formerly FleetBoston). From 1982 to 2003, she held a number of executive positions with Bank One Corporation (now JPMorgan), including Managing Director and Head of European Asset-Backed Securitization and Managing Director and Senior Originator of Asset-Backed Securitization.

Ms. Stamps has a B.S. in Management Sciences from Duke University and an MBA in Finance from the University of Chicago. She also earned a CERT Certificate in Cybersecurity Oversight from the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

The election of Ms. Stamps brings the total number of directors on the MFA Board to eight, seven of whom are independent and four of whom are women. Ms. Stamps will serve on the Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees of the Board.

MFA Financial, Inc. is a leading specialty finance company that invests in and finances residential mortgage assets. MFA invests, on a leveraged basis, in residential whole loans, residential mortgage-backed securities and other real estate assets. Through its subsidiaries, MFA also originates and services business purpose loans for real estate investors. MFA is an internally-managed, publicly-traded real estate investment trust.

-2-