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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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

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 <u>JOSEPHS ROBIN</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC.</u> <u>ONE VANDERBILT AVENUE, 48TH FLOOR</u>  (Street) <u>NEW YORK NY 10017</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [ MFA ]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner  Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/15/2026</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

**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			
Common Stock	01/15/2026		M <sup>(1)</sup>		3,473	A	(1)	35,454	D	

**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)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Restricted Stock Units	(2)	01/15/2026		M <sup>(2)</sup>		3,473		01/15/2026 <sup>(2)</sup>	01/15/2026 <sup>(2)</sup>	Common Stock	3,473	(2)	92,790	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Shares acquired pursuant to the settlement of restricted stock units ("RSUs") (i.e., phantom stock) granted to the Reporting Person in 2016, the settlement of which was deferred under the MFA Financial, Inc. 2003 Non-Employee Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan. Each phantom share was fully vested upon grant and was the economic equivalent of one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc.
- The reported disposition reflects the settlement of RSUs (i.e., phantom stock) granted to the Reporting Person in 2016. Each phantom share was the economic equivalent of one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc. Each phantom share was settled in one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc. See footnote 1 above.

/s/ Harold E. Schwartz, by power of attorney 01/20/2026

\*\* 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 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.