

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.  
Form 8-K  
July 31, 2017

**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): **July 28, 2017**

**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.)

**350 Park Avenue, 20th Floor**  
**New York, New York**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**10022**  
(Zip Code)

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

**Not Applicable**

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(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))

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.**

(c) On July 28, 2017, the Board of Directors of MFA Financial, Inc. (the Company ) announced the appointment, effective immediately, of Craig L. Knutson, age 57, as Co-Chief Executive Officer of the Company in order to allow William S. Gorin, the Company s Chief Executive Officer, to focus on his ongoing treatment for cancer. Mr. Knutson has been MFA s president and chief operating officer since January 2014 and prior thereto was an executive vice president of the Company from 2008 to 2013.

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A copy of the press release reporting on Mr. Knutson s appointment 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 July 31, 2017, of MFA Financial, Inc.

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<br>General Counsel |

Date: July 31, 2017

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------------|--|
| 99.1               | Press release, dated July 31, 2017, of MFA Financial, Inc. |