

E TRADE FINANCIAL CORP  
Form POSASR  
February 22, 2017  
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 22, 2017

Registration No. 333-203953

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**TO**

**FORM S-3**

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

*UNDER*

*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**E\*TRADE Financial Corporation**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

94-2844166  
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

1271 Avenue of the Americas

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14th Floor

New York, New York 10020

(646) 521-4300

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Lori S. Sher

General Counsel

1271 Avenue of the Americas

14th Floor

New York, New York 10020

(646) 521-4300

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

*Copy to:*

Sarah K. Solum

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

1600 El Camino Real

Menlo Park, California 94025

(650) 752-2000

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

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If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to Be Registered	Amount to Be Registered (1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit (1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1)	Amount of Registration Fee (1)
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share				
Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share				
Depository Shares				
Debt Securities				
Warrants				
Purchase Contracts				
Units				

- (1) An indeterminate amount of securities to be offered at indeterminate prices is being registered pursuant to this registration statement. The registrant is deferring payment of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 456(b) and is omitting this information in reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r). These securities may also be sold separately, together or as units with the other securities registered hereunder.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 (the "Post-Effective Amendment") to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-203953) (the "Registration Statement") of E\*TRADE Financial Corporation is being filed for the purpose of (i) registering depositary shares pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, (ii) updating the base prospectus that forms a part of the Registration Statement to reflect references to such depositary shares and to reflect certain other updates related to the passage of time and (iii) filing additional exhibits to the Registration Statement relating to such depositary shares. The existing base prospectus, dated May 7, 2015, that currently forms a part of the Registration Statement is being replaced in its entirety by the base prospectus filed with this Post-Effective Amendment. This Post-Effective Amendment shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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**PROSPECTUS**

**E\*TRADE Financial Corporation**

**Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, Debt Securities,  
Warrants, Purchase Contracts and Units**

We may issue shares of our common stock and preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts and units, and we or any selling security holders may offer and sell these securities from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus describes the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which these securities will be offered. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements will also describe the specific manner in which these securities will be offered and may also supplement, update or amend information contained in this document. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement before you invest.

We and any selling security holders may offer these securities in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. The securities may be sold directly to you, through agents, or through underwriters and dealers. If agents, underwriters or dealers are used to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ETFC. On February 17, 2017, the last reported sale price on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for our common stock was \$37.17.

**Investing in these securities involves certain risks. See Item 1A. Risk Factors beginning on page 11 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 incorporated by reference herein. We may include specific risk factors in an applicable prospectus supplement under the heading Risk Factors.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities, or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

**The date of this prospectus is February 22, 2017**

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We have not authorized anyone to provide you any information other than that contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any supplement hereto, or any related free writing prospectus issued by us. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give to you. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the cover of this prospectus.

We refer to E\*TRADE Financial Corporation in this prospectus as E\*TRADE, the Company, we, us, our or comparable terms. All such references refer to E\*TRADE Financial Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries unless expressly indicated or the context otherwise requires.

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**THE COMPANY**

We are a financial services company that provides online brokerage and related products and services primarily to individual retail investors. We provide these services to customers through our digital platforms and network of industry-licensed customer service representatives and financial consultants, over the phone and by email at two national branches and in-person at 30 regional branches across the United States. We operate federally chartered savings banks with the primary purpose of maximizing the value of deposits generated through our brokerage business.

Our corporate offices are located at 1271 Avenue of the Americas, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10020. We were incorporated in California in 1982 and reincorporated in Delaware in July 1996. We had approximately 3,600 employees at December 31, 2016. We operate directly and through several subsidiaries, many of which are overseen by governmental and self-regulatory organizations. Substantially all of our revenues for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 were derived from our operations in the United States. Our most important subsidiaries are described below:

E\*TRADE Securities LLC (E\*TRADE Securities) is a registered broker-dealer that clears and settles securities transactions for its customers. Our legacy clearing firm, E\*TRADE Clearing LLC (E\*TRADE Clearing), was merged into E\*TRADE Securities effective October 1, 2016.

Aperture LLC (dba OptionsHouse) is a registered broker-dealer acquired on September 12, 2016 that provides brokerage products and services primarily to active traders through its derivatives platform.

E\*TRADE Bank and its subsidiary E\*TRADE Savings Bank are federally chartered savings banks which provide our customers with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance on qualifying amounts of customer deposits and other banking and cash management capabilities. We utilize our bank structure to effectively monetize the value of brokerage deposits.

E\*TRADE Financial Corporate Services is a provider of software and services for managing equity compensation plans to our corporate clients.

**About this Prospectus**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we or selling security holders may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or selling security holders may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also supplement, update or amend information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

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**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), from which interested persons can electronically access our SEC filings, including the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and the exhibits and schedules thereto.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all documents subsequently filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

- (a) our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed with the SEC on February 22, 2017;
- (b) the portions of the Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders incorporated by reference in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015; and
- (c) our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 7, 2017.

Any statements contained in a previously filed document incorporated by reference into this prospectus are deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in a subsequently filed document also incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes that statement.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost by writing or telephoning the office of Investor Relations, E\*TRADE Financial Corporation, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10020, (646) 521-4340. Information about us, including our SEC filings, is also available at our website at [www.etrade.com](http://www.etrade.com). However, the information on our website is not a part of, or incorporated by reference in, this prospectus or any prospectus supplement that we file and should not be relied upon in determining whether to make an investment in our securities.

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**SPECIAL NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus, any amendment or supplement thereto and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements, within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, that involve risks and uncertainties. These statements discuss, among other things, our future plans, objectives, outlook, strategies, expectations and intentions relating to our business and future financial and operating results and the assumptions that underlie these matters and include statements made in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 regarding our capital plan initiatives and expected balance sheet size, the payment of dividends from our subsidiaries to our parent company, the management of our legacy loan portfolio, our ability to utilize deferred tax assets, the expected implementation and applicability of government regulation and our ability to comply with these regulations, continued repurchases of our common stock, payment of dividends on our preferred stock, our ability to meet upcoming debt obligations, the integration and related restructuring costs of past and any future acquisitions, the expected outcome of existing or new litigation, our ability to execute our business plans and manage risk, the potential decline of fees and service charges, the future sources of revenue, expense and liquidity and any other statement that is not historical in nature. These statements may be identified by the use of words such as assume, expect, believe, may, will, should, anticipate, intend, plan, continue and similar expressions. We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events and trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, business strategy, short-term and long-term business operations and objectives and financial needs. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including those described in the Risk Factors section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 or any amendment or supplement to this prospectus. Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks emerge from time to time. It is not possible for our management to predict all risks, nor can we assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements we may make. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the future events and trends discussed in this prospectus or any amendment or supplement to this prospectus may not occur and actual results could differ materially and adversely from those anticipated or implied in the forward-looking statements.

Important factors that could contribute to our actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements differing materially from the results, level of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, changes in business, economic or political condition, performance, volume and volatility in the equity and capital markets, performance of the residential real estate and credit markets, changes in interest rates or interest rate volatility, credit and counterparty risk, customer demand for financial products and services, our ability to continue to compete effectively, cyber security threats, reliance on technology infrastructure, our ability to participate in consolidation opportunities in our industry, our ability to service our corporate debt, changes in government regulation or actions by our regulators, our ability to move capital to our parent company from our subsidiaries, adverse developments in litigation and other factors discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, Risk Factors and elsewhere, in this prospectus and any amendment or supplement thereto and in other reports we file with the SEC.

Forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict or quantify and we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Actual future results may vary materially from expectations expressed or implied in this prospectus, any amendment or supplement thereto and the documents incorporated by reference herein. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus, any amendment or supplement thereto and the documents incorporated by reference herein reflect our expectations only as of the date such statement was made. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, as we do not undertake to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect new information or the impact of circumstances or events that arise after the date the forward-looking statements were made, except as required by law. Although we undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, you are advised to review any additional disclosures we make in the documents we subsequently file with the SEC that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any amendment or supplement to this prospectus. See Where You Can Find Additional Information.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for working capital and general corporate purposes, including, but not limited to, repayment of indebtedness, funding our operations and financing capital expenditures. We may also invest the proceeds in certificates of deposit, U.S. government securities or certain other interest-bearing securities. If we decide to use the net proceeds from a particular offering of securities for a specific purpose, we will describe that purpose in the related prospectus supplement.

We will not receive any proceeds from sales of securities offered by any selling security holders under this prospectus.

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The following table sets forth our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges and the ratio of earnings to

fixed charges and preferred dividends:

	<b>For the Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	10.06	1.42	2.39	1.53	(a)
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends (b)	10.06	1.42	2.39	1.53	(a)

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing fixed charges into income (loss) before income taxes less equity in the income (loss) of investments plus fixed charges. Fixed charges include, as applicable, interest expense, amortization of debt issuance costs and the estimated interest component of rent expense (calculated as one-third of net rent expense).

- (a) Earnings for the year ended December 31, 2012 were inadequate to cover fixed charges. The coverage deficiency was \$132 million.
- (b) On August 25, 2016, we issued 400,000 shares of our Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, par value \$0.01 per share, liquidation preference \$1,000 per share (the Series A Preferred Stock) in a public offering registered under the Securities Act. On or prior to December 31, 2016, we had not paid dividends on any shares of preferred stock, including the Series A Preferred Stock. Prior to the issuance of the Series A Preferred Stock, we had no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

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**DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK**

As used in this section of the prospectus and under the captions Description of Preferred Stock, Description of Debt Securities, Description of Warrants, Description of Purchase Contracts and Description of Units, the terms we, us and our refer only to E\*TRADE and not to any existing or future subsidiaries of E\*TRADE.

The following description of our common stock is based upon our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended ( Certificate of Incorporation ), our Amended and Restated Bylaws ( Bylaws ) and applicable provisions of law as currently in effect. We have summarized certain portions of the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws below. The summary is not complete. The Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. You should read the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws for the provisions that are important to you.

Certain provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law ( DGCL ), the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws summarized in the following paragraphs may have an anti-takeover effect. This may delay, defer or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a stockholder might consider in its best interests, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for its shares.

**General**

Our authorized common stock consists of 400,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share. As of February 17, 2017, we had outstanding 274,678,179 shares of our common stock.

Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote per share held on all matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably the dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by our Board of Directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends. If we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our business, the holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to prior distribution rights of preferred stock, if any, then outstanding. The common stock has no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. All outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and non-assessable, and any shares of common stock to be issued upon completion of any offering of our common stock under this prospectus will be fully paid and non-assessable.

**Anti-Takeover Effects or Provisions of Our Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Delaware Law**

*Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws*

Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws contain provisions that could discourage potential takeover attempts and make more difficult attempts by stockholders to change management.

Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws currently permit the Board of Directors to create new directorships and to elect new directors to serve for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders. In uncontested elections, each director must be elected to the Board of Directors by the majority of the votes cast with respect to the director's election, and must submit his or her resignation to the Board of Directors if he or she does not obtain the required majority. The Board of Directors has the power to decide whether or not to accept the resignation, but must publicly disclose its decision and, if the resignation is rejected, its rationale within 90 days following certification of the stockholder vote. The Board of Directors (or its remaining members, even though less than a quorum) is also empowered to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors occurring for any reason, including a vacancy from an enlargement of the Board of Directors; however, a vacancy created by the

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removal of a director by the stockholders or court order may be filled only by the vote of a majority of the shares at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Any director so elected according to the preceding sentence shall hold office for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders. Our Certificate of Incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting in the election of directors.

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that stockholders may take action only at an annual meeting or special meeting and may not take action by written consent. Special meetings of our stockholders may only be called by our Chairman of the Board, our President, a majority of the number of directors constituting the full Board of Directors, or the holders of not less than 10% of our outstanding voting stock.

Under the terms of our Bylaws, stockholders who intend to present business or nominate persons for election to the Board of Directors at annual meetings of stockholders must provide notice to our corporate secretary no more than 150 days and no less than 120 days prior to the date of the proxy statement for the prior annual meeting, as more fully set forth in our Bylaws.

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that, in addition to the requirements of the Delaware General Corporation Law described below, any business combination with an interested stockholder, as these terms are defined in our Certificate of Incorporation and summarized below, requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock, unless two-thirds of the number of directors constituting the full Board of Directors approve the transaction.

A business combination is defined for purposes of this provision of our Certificate of Incorporation as:

a merger or consolidation of us or any of our subsidiaries with an interested stockholder or with a corporation that is or would become an affiliate or associate, with these terms defined for purposes of this provision of our Certificate of Incorporation as they are defined in the Exchange Act, of an interested stockholder,

any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition to or with, or proposed by or on behalf of, an interested stockholder or any affiliate or associate of an interested stockholder involving any assets of ours or our subsidiaries that constitute 5% or more of our total assets,

the issuance or transfer by us or by any of our subsidiaries of any of our or their securities to, or proposed by or on behalf of, an interested stockholder or any affiliate or associate of an interested stockholder in exchange for cash, securities or other property that constitute 5% or more of our total assets,

the adoption of any plan or proposal for our liquidation or dissolution or any spin-off or split-up of any kind of us or any of our subsidiaries, proposed by or on behalf of an interested stockholder or an affiliate or associate of an interested stockholder, or

any reclassification, recapitalization, or merger or consolidation of us with any of our subsidiaries or any similar transaction that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of increasing the percentage of the outstanding shares of (i) any class of equity securities of us or any of our subsidiaries or (ii) any class of securities of us or any of our subsidiaries convertible into equity securities of us or any of our subsidiaries which are directly or indirectly owned by an interested stockholder or an affiliate or associate of an interested stockholder.

An interested stockholder is defined for purposes of this provision of our Certificate of Incorporation as an individual, corporation or other entity which, as of the record date for notice of the transaction or immediately prior to the transaction:

is one of our associates or affiliates and at any time within the prior two-year period was the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 10% or more of our outstanding voting securities, or



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is, or was at any time within the prior two-year period, the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 10% or more of our outstanding voting securities, or

is under circumstances described in more detail in our Certificate of Incorporation, an assignee of any of the persons described above.

A person is the beneficial owner of any voting securities which:

that person or any of its affiliates or associates, beneficially owns, directly or indirectly,

that person or any of its affiliates or associates has, directly or indirectly, the right to acquire (whether such right is exercisable immediately or subject only to the passage of time), pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding or upon the exercise of conversion rights, exchange rights, warrants or options, or otherwise, or the right to vote pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, or

are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by any other person with which the person in question or any of its affiliates or associates has any agreement, arrangement or understanding for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting or disposing of any shares of capital stock.

As described below under Description of Preferred Stock, our Board of Directors has the authority to issue preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the powers, rights, designations, preferences, qualifications, limitations and restrictions applicable to the preferred stock. The issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing potential takeover attempts without further action by the stockholders and may adversely affect the voting and other rights of the holders of our common stock.

These provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws as currently in effect may deter any potential unsolicited offers or other efforts to obtain control of us that are not approved by our Board of Directors. Such provisions could deprive our stockholders of opportunities to realize a premium on their common stock and could make removal of incumbent directors more difficult. At the same time, these provisions may have the effect of inducing any persons seeking to control us or seeking a business combination with us to negotiate terms acceptable to our Board of Directors. These provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws can be changed or amended, in the case of our Certificate of Incorporation, only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of our outstanding voting stock and, in the case of our Bylaws, only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of our outstanding voting stock or the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of directors we would have, assuming no directorships were vacant at the time of the vote.

*Delaware Law*

We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law regulating corporate takeovers. In general, Section 203 prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date that the stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

the transaction is approved by the Board of Directors before the date the interested stockholder attained that status;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced; or

on or after the date the business combination is approved by the Board of Directors and authorized at a meeting of stockholders by at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines business combination to include the following:

any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;

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any merger or consolidation involving the corporation or any majority-owned subsidiary and the interested stockholder;

subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation or by any majority-owned subsidiary of any stock of the corporation or of such subsidiary to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation or any majority-owned subsidiary that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation or any majority-owned subsidiary.

In general, Section 203 defines interested stockholder to be any entity or person beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation and any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by any of these entities or persons.

A Delaware corporation may opt out of this provision either with an express provision in its original Certificate of Incorporation or in an amendment to its Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws approved by its stockholders. We have not opted out of this provision. Section 203 could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeover or change in control attempts and, accordingly, may discourage attempts to acquire us.

### **Delaware as Sole and Exclusive Forum**

Our Bylaws provide that the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware shall be the sole and exclusive forum for (a) any derivative action or proceeding brought on behalf of us, (b) any action asserting a claim of breach of a fiduciary duty owed by any of our directors or officers to us or our stockholders, (c) any action asserting a claim against us or our officers, directors or employees arising pursuant to any provision of the Delaware General Corporation Law or our Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws or (d) any action asserting a claim against us or our officers, directors or employees governed by the internal affairs doctrine. As a result, any action brought by any of our stockholders with regard to any of these matters will need to be filed in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware and cannot be filed in any other jurisdiction. Although our Bylaws contain the choice of forum provision described above, it is possible that a court could rule that such a provision is inapplicable for a particular claim or action or that such provision is unenforceable.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, N.A.

### **Listing**

Our common stock is listed for trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the trading symbol ETFC.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK**

This prospectus describes certain general terms and provisions of our preferred stock. When we offer to sell a particular series of preferred stock, we will describe the specific terms of the securities in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the general terms and provisions described in this prospectus apply to the particular series of preferred stock. The preferred stock will be issued under a certificate of designation relating to each series of preferred stock and is also subject to our Certificate of Incorporation.

Our authorized preferred stock consists of 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. As of February 17, 2017, we had outstanding 400,000 shares of our preferred stock, which consist entirely of our Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, liquidation preference \$1,000 per share.

Under our Certificate of Incorporation, our Board of Directors has the authority to:

create one or more series of preferred stock;

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issue shares of preferred stock in any series up to the maximum number of shares of preferred stock authorized; and

determine the preferences, rights, privileges and restrictions of any series.

Our Board of Directors may issue authorized shares of preferred stock, as well as authorized but unissued shares of common stock, without further stockholder action, unless stockholder action is required by applicable law or by the rules of a stock exchange or quotation system on which any series of our stock may be listed or quoted.

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any preferred stock being offered, including:

the number of shares and designation or title of the shares;

any liquidation preference per share;

any date of maturity;

any redemption, repayment or sinking fund provisions;

any dividend rate or rates and the dates of payment (or the method for determining the dividend rates or dates of payment);

any voting rights;

if other than the currency of the United States, the currency or currencies including composite currencies in which the preferred stock is denominated and/or in which payments will or may be payable;

the method by which amounts in respect of the preferred stock may be calculated and any commodities, currencies or indices, or value, rate or price, relevant to such calculation;

whether the preferred stock is convertible or exchangeable and, if so, the securities or rights into which the preferred stock is convertible or exchangeable, and the terms and conditions of conversion or exchange;

the place or places where dividends and other payments on the preferred stock will be payable; and

any additional voting, dividend, liquidation, redemption and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions.

All shares of preferred stock offered will be fully paid and non-assessable. Any shares of preferred stock that are issued will have priority over the common stock with respect to dividend or liquidation rights or both.

Our Board of Directors could create and issue a series of preferred stock with rights, privileges or restrictions which effectively discriminates against a then-existing or prospective holder of preferred stock as a result of the holder beneficially owning or commencing a tender offer for a substantial amount of common stock. One of the effects of authorized but unissued and unreserved shares of capital stock may be to make it

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more difficult or discourage an attempt by a potential acquirer to obtain control of our company by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise. The issuance of these shares of capital stock may defer or prevent a change in control of our company without any further stockholder action.

The transfer agent for each series of preferred stock will be described in the relevant prospectus supplement.

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES REPRESENTING PREFERRED STOCK**

The applicable prospectus supplement will include a description of the material terms of any depositary shares representing preferred stock offered hereby.

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**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

Our debt securities, consisting of notes, debentures or other evidences of indebtedness, may be issued from time to time in one or more series pursuant to, in the case of senior debt securities, a senior indenture, and in the case of subordinated debt securities, a subordinated indenture, in each case to be entered into between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as trustee. The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are referred to herein as the indentures. The terms of our debt securities will include those set forth in the applicable indenture and those made a part thereof by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

Because the following is only a summary of selected provisions of the indentures and the debt securities, it does not contain all information that may be important to you. This summary is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the indentures and any supplemental indentures thereto or officer's certificate or board resolution related thereto. We urge you to read the indentures because the indentures, not this description, define the rights of the holders of the debt securities. The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture will be substantially in the forms included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

**General**

The senior debt securities will constitute unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of ours and will rank pari passu with our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. The subordinated debt securities will constitute our unsecured and subordinated obligations and will be junior in right of payment to our Senior Indebtedness (including senior debt securities), as described under the heading Certain Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities Subordination.

We conduct most of our operations through subsidiaries. Consequently, our ability to pay our obligations, including our obligation to pay principal or interest on the debt securities, to pay the debt securities at maturity or upon redemption or to buy the debt securities may depend on our subsidiaries repaying investments and advances we have made to them, and on our subsidiaries' earnings and their distributing those earnings to us. The debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all obligations (including trade payables and preferred stock obligations) of our subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and will have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any amounts due on the debt securities or to make funds available to us to do so. Our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends or make other payments or advances to us will depend on their operating results and will be subject to applicable laws and regulatory and contractual restrictions. The indentures will not limit our subsidiaries' ability to enter into other agreements that prohibit or restrict dividends or other payments or advances to us.

The debt securities will be our unsecured obligations. Our secured debt and other secured obligations will be effectively senior to the debt securities to the extent of the value of the assets securing such debt or other obligations.

You should look in the prospectus supplement for any additional or different terms of the debt securities being offered, including the following terms:

the debt securities' designation;

the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the percentage of their principal amount (i.e. price) at which the debt securities will be issued;

the date or dates on which the debt securities will mature and the right, if any, to extend such date or dates;

the rate or rates, if any, per year, at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the method of determining such rate or rates;

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the date or dates from which such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest will be payable or the manner of determination of such interest payment dates and the record dates for the determination of holders to whom interest is payable on any interest payment date;

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the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of that extension;

the manner of paying principal and interest and the place or places where principal and interest will be payable;

provisions for a sinking fund purchase or other analogous fund, if any;

the period or periods, if any, within which, the price or prices at which, and the terms and conditions upon which the debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option or at your option;

the period or periods, if any, within which, the price or prices at which, and the terms and conditions upon which we may otherwise be required to redeem the debt securities;

the form of the debt securities;

any provisions for payment of additional amounts for taxes and any provision for redemption if we must pay such additional amounts in respect of any debt security;

the terms and conditions, if any, upon which we may have to repay the debt securities early at your option;

the currency, currencies or currency units for which you may purchase the debt securities and the currency, currencies or currency units in which principal and interest, if any, on the debt securities may be payable;

the terms and conditions upon which conversion or exchange of the debt securities may be effected, if any, including the initial conversion or exchange price or rate and any adjustments thereto and the period or periods when a conversion or exchange may be effected;

whether and upon what terms the debt securities may be defeased;

any events of default or covenants in addition to or in lieu of those set forth in the indenture;

provisions for electronic issuance of debt securities or for debt securities in uncertificated form; and

any other terms of the debt securities, including any terms which may be required by or advisable under applicable laws or regulations or advisable in connection with the marketing of the debt securities.

We may from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the holders of any series of debt securities, create and issue further debt securities of any such series ranking equally with the debt securities of such series in all respects (or in all respects other than the payment of interest accruing prior to the issue date of such further debt securities or except for the first payment of interest following the issue date of such further debt securities); provided that if such additional debt securities are not fungible with the initial debt securities of such series offered hereby for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such additional debt securities will have a separate CUSIP number.

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You may present debt securities for exchange and you may present debt securities for transfer in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the applicable prospectus supplement. We will provide you those services without charge, although you may have to pay any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with any exchange or transfer, as set forth in the indenture.

Debt securities will bear interest at a fixed rate or a floating rate. Debt securities bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate (original issue discount securities) may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. Certain U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to any such discounted debt securities or to certain debt securities issued at par which are treated as having been issued at a discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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We may issue debt securities with the principal amount payable on any principal payment date, or the amount of interest payable on any interest payment date, to be determined by reference to one or more currency exchange rates, securities or baskets of securities, commodity prices or indices. You may receive a payment of principal on any principal payment date, or a payment of interest on any interest payment date, that is greater than or less than the amount of principal or interest otherwise payable on such dates, depending on the value on such dates of the applicable currency, security or basket of securities, commodity or index. Information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest payable on any date, the currencies, securities or baskets of securities, commodities or indices to which the amount payable on such date is linked and certain tax considerations will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Certain Terms of the Senior Debt Securities**

#### ***Covenants***

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will not contain any financial or restrictive covenants, including covenants restricting either us or any of our subsidiaries from incurring, issuing, assuming or guarantying any indebtedness secured by a lien on any of our or our subsidiaries' property or capital stock, or restricting either us or any of our subsidiaries from entering into sale and leaseback transactions.

#### ***Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets***

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we may not consolidate with or merge into any other person, in a transaction in which we are not the surviving corporation, or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless:

the successor entity, if any, is a U.S. corporation, limited liability company, partnership or trust (subject to certain exceptions provided for in the senior indenture);

the successor entity assumes our obligations on the senior debt securities and under the senior indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing; and

certain other conditions are met.

#### ***No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control***

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement with respect to a particular series of senior debt securities, the senior debt securities will not contain any provisions which may afford holders of the senior debt securities protection in the event we have a change in control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change in control).

#### ***Events of Default***

An event of default for any series of senior debt securities is defined under the senior indenture as being:

- (1) our default in the payment of principal or premium on the senior debt securities of such series when due and payable whether at maturity, upon acceleration, redemption, or otherwise, if that default continues for a period of five days (or such other period as may be specified for such series);

- (2)

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our default in the payment of interest on any senior debt securities of such series when due and payable, if that default continues for a period of 60 days (or such other period as may be specified for such series);

- (3) our default in the performance of or breach of any of our other covenants or agreements in the senior indenture applicable to senior debt securities of such series, other than a covenant breach which is

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specifically dealt with elsewhere in the senior indenture, and that default or breach continues for a period of 90 consecutive days after we receive written notice from the trustee or from the holders of 25% or more in aggregate principal amount of the senior debt securities of such series;

(4) there occurs any other event of default provided for in such series of senior debt securities;

(5) a court having jurisdiction enters a decree or order for:

relief in respect of us in an involuntary case under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law now or hereafter in effect;

appointment of a receiver, liquidator, assignee, custodian, trustee, sequestrator or similar official of us or for all or substantially all of our property and assets; or

the winding up or liquidation of our affairs and such decree or order shall remain unstayed and in effect for a period of 60 consecutive days; or

(6) we:

commence a voluntary case under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law now or hereafter in effect, or consent to the entry of an order for relief in an involuntary case under any such law;

consent to the appointment of or taking possession by a receiver, liquidator, assignee, custodian, trustee, sequestrator or similar official of ours for all or substantially all of our property and assets; or

effect any general assignment for the benefit of creditors.

The default by us under any other debt, including any other series of debt securities, is not a default under the senior indenture.

If an event of default other than an event of default specified in (5) or (6) above occurs with respect to a series of senior debt securities and is continuing under the senior indenture, then, and in each and every such case, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of such series then outstanding under the senior indenture (each such series voting as a separate class) by written notice to us and to the trustee, if such notice is given by the holders, may, and the trustee at the request of such holders shall, declare the principal amount of and accrued interest, if any, on such senior debt securities to be immediately due and payable.

If an event of default specified in (5) or (6) above occurs with respect to us and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the senior debt securities of all series then outstanding under the senior indenture (treated as one class) may, by written notice to us and to the trustee, if such notice is given by the holders, declare the entire principal amount of and accrued interest, if any, on each series of senior debt securities then outstanding to be immediately due and payable.

Upon a declaration of acceleration, the principal amount of and accrued interest, if any, on such senior debt securities shall be immediately due and payable. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a series of senior debt securities originally issued at a discount, the amount due upon acceleration shall include only the original issue price of the senior debt securities, the amount of original issue discount accrued to the date of acceleration and accrued interest, if any.

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Upon certain conditions, declarations of acceleration may be rescinded and annulled and past defaults may be waived by the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all the senior debt securities of such series affected by the default, each series voting as a separate class (or of all the senior debt securities, as the case may be, voting as a single class). Furthermore, subject to various provisions in the senior indenture, the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of senior debt securities, by notice to the trustee, may waive an existing default or event of default with respect to such senior debt securities and its consequences, except a default in the payment of principal or interest on such senior debt securities or in respect of a

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covenant or provision of the senior indenture which cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holders of each such senior debt security. Upon any such waiver, such default shall cease to exist, and any event of default with respect to such senior debt securities shall be deemed to have been cured, for every purpose of the senior indenture; but no such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other default or event of default or impair any right consequent thereto. For information as to the waiver of defaults, see Modification and Waiver.

The holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of senior debt securities may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to such senior debt securities. However, the trustee may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the senior indenture, that may involve the trustee in personal liability, or that the trustee determines in good faith may be unduly prejudicial to the rights of holders of such series of senior debt securities not joining in the giving of such direction and may take any other action it deems proper that is not inconsistent with any such direction received from holders of such series of senior debt securities. A holder may not pursue any remedy with respect to the senior indenture or any series of senior debt securities unless:

the holder gives the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of such series of senior debt securities make a written request to the trustee to pursue the remedy in respect of such event of default;

the requesting holder or holders offer the trustee indemnity satisfactory to the trustee against any costs, liability, or expense;

the trustee does not comply with the request within 60 days after receipt of the request and the offer of indemnity; and

during such 60-day period, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of such series of senior debt securities do not give the trustee a direction that is inconsistent with the request.

These limitations, however, do not apply to the right of any holder of a senior debt security to receive payment of the principal of or interest, if any, on such senior debt security, or to bring suit for the enforcement of any such payment, on or after the due date for the senior debt securities, which right shall not be impaired or affected without the consent of the holder.

The senior indenture requires certain of our officers to certify, on or before a fixed date in each year in which any senior debt security is outstanding, as to their knowledge of our compliance with all conditions and covenants under the senior indenture.

### ***Discharge and Defeasance***

The senior indenture provides that, unless the terms of any series of senior debt securities provide otherwise, we may discharge our obligations with respect to a series of senior debt securities and the senior indenture with respect to such series of senior debt securities if:

we pay or cause to be paid, as and when due and payable, the principal of and any interest on all senior debt securities of such series outstanding under the senior indenture;

all senior debt securities of such series previously authenticated and delivered with certain exceptions, have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and we have paid all sums payable by us under the senior indenture; or

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the senior debt securities of such series mature within one year or all of them are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the trustee for giving the notice of redemption, and we irrevocably deposit in trust with the trustee, as trust funds solely for the benefit of the holders of the senior debt securities of such series, for that purpose, the entire amount in cash or, in the case of any series of senior debt securities payments on which may only be made in U.S. dollars, U.S. government obligations (maturing as to principal and interest in such amounts and at such times as

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will insure the availability of cash), sufficient, after payment of all federal, state and local taxes or other charges and assessments in respect thereof payable by the trustee, to pay principal of and interest on the senior debt securities of such series to maturity or redemption, as the case may be, and to pay all other sums payable by us under the senior indenture.

With respect to the first and second bullet points, only our obligations to compensate and indemnify the trustee and our right to recover unclaimed money held by the trustee under the senior indenture shall survive. With respect to the third bullet point, certain rights and obligations under the senior indenture (such as our obligation to maintain an office or agency in respect of such senior debt securities, to have moneys held for payment in trust, to register the transfer or exchange of such senior debt securities, to deliver such senior debt securities for replacement or to be canceled, to compensate and indemnify the trustee and to appoint a successor trustee, and our right to recover unclaimed money held by the trustee) shall survive until such senior debt securities are no longer outstanding. Thereafter, only our obligations to compensate and indemnify the trustee and our right to recover unclaimed money held by the trustee shall survive.

Unless the terms of any series of senior debt securities provide otherwise, on the 121st day after the date of deposit of the trust funds with the trustee, we will be deemed to have paid and will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the series of senior debt securities provided for in the funds, and the provisions of the senior indenture will no longer be in effect with respect to such senior debt securities ( legal defeasance ); provided that the following conditions shall have been satisfied:

we have irrevocably deposited in trust with the trustee as trust funds solely for the benefit of the holders of the senior debt securities of such series, for payment of the principal of and interest on the senior debt securities of such series, cash in an amount or, in the case of any series of senior debt securities payments on which can only be made in U.S. dollars, U.S. government obligations (maturing as to principal and interest at such times and in such amounts as will insure the availability of cash) or a combination thereof sufficient (in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification thereof delivered to the trustee), after payment of all federal, state and local taxes or other charges and assessments in respect thereof payable by the trustee, to pay and discharge the principal of and accrued interest on the senior debt securities of such series to maturity or earlier redemption, as the case may be, and any mandatory sinking fund payments on the day on which such payments are due and payable in accordance with the terms of the senior indenture and the senior debt securities of such series;

such deposit will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the senior indenture or any other material agreement or instrument to which we are a party or by which we are bound;

no default or event of default with respect to the senior debt securities of such series shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit;

we shall have delivered to the trustee either an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel that the holders of the senior debt securities of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of our exercising our option under this provision of the senior indenture and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred or a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service to the same effect; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officer's certificate and an opinion of counsel, in each case stating that all conditions precedent provided for in the senior indenture relating to the contemplated defeasance of the senior debt securities of such series have been complied with.

Subsequent to the legal defeasance above, certain rights and obligations under the senior indenture (such as our obligation to maintain an office or agency in respect of such senior debt securities, to have moneys held for payment in trust, to register the exchange of such senior debt securities, to deliver such senior debt securities for

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replacement or to be canceled, to compensate and indemnify the trustee and to appoint a successor trustee, and our right to recover unclaimed money held by the trustee) shall survive until such senior debt securities are no longer outstanding. After such senior debt securities are no longer outstanding, only our obligations to compensate and indemnify the trustee and our right to recover unclaimed money held by the trustee shall survive.

***Modification and Waiver***

We and the trustee may amend or supplement the senior indenture or the senior debt securities without the consent of any holder:

to convey, mortgage or pledge any assets as security for the senior debt securities of one or more series;

to evidence the succession of another corporation to us, and the assumption by such successor corporation of our covenants, agreements and obligations under the senior indenture;

to cure any ambiguity, defect, or inconsistency in the senior indenture or in any supplemental indenture; provided that such amendments or supplements shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the senior debt securities of any series in any material respect, or to conform the senior indenture or the senior debt securities to the description of senior debt securities of such series set forth in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement;

to comply with the provisions described under *Certain Covenants Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets* ;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor trustee, or to make such changes as shall be necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts in the senior indenture by more than one trustee;

to provide for or add guarantors with respect to the senior debt securities of any series;

to establish the form or forms or terms of the senior debt securities as permitted by the senior indenture;

to make any change that is necessary or desirable provided that such change shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the senior debt securities of any series in any material respect;

to add to our covenants new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the protection of the holders, and to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default;

to make any change to the senior debt securities of any series so long as no senior debt securities of such series are outstanding; or

to make any other change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder.

Other amendments and modifications of the senior indenture or the senior debt securities issued may be made, and our compliance with any provision of the senior indenture with respect to any series of senior debt securities may be waived, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of all series affected by the amendment or

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modification (voting as one class); provided, however, that each affected holder must consent to any modification, amendment or waiver that:

changes the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest on, any senior debt securities of such series;

reduces the principal amount of, or premium, if any, or interest on, any senior debt securities of such series;

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changes the place or currency of payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, any senior debt securities of such series;

changes the provisions for calculating the optional redemption price, including the definitions relating thereto;

changes the provisions relating to the waiver of past defaults or changes or impairs the right of holders to receive payment or to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment of any senior debt securities of such series on or after the due date therefor;

reduces the above-stated percentage of outstanding senior debt securities of such series the consent of whose holders is necessary to modify or amend or to waive certain provisions of or defaults under the senior indenture;

waives a default in the payment of principal of or interest on the senior debt securities;

adversely affects the rights of such holder under any mandatory redemption or repurchase provision or any right of redemption or repurchase at the option of such holder; or

modifies any of the provisions of this paragraph, except to increase any required percentage or to provide that certain other provisions cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each senior debt security of such series affected by the modification.

It shall not be necessary for the consent of the holders under this section of the senior indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment, supplement or waiver, but it shall be sufficient if such consent approves the substance thereof. After an amendment, supplement or waiver under this section of the senior indenture becomes effective, the trustee must give to the holders affected thereby certain notice briefly describing the amendment, supplement or waiver. We will mail supplemental indentures to holders upon request. Any failure by the trustee to give such notice, or any defect therein, shall not, however, in any way impair or affect the validity of any such supplemental indenture or waiver.

***No Personal Liability of Incorporators, Stockholders, Officers, Directors***

The senior indenture provides that no recourse shall be had under or upon any obligation, covenant, or agreement of ours in the senior indenture or any supplemental indenture, or in any of the senior debt securities or because of the creation of any indebtedness represented thereby, against any incorporator, stockholder, officer or director of ours or of any successor person thereof under any law, statute or constitutional provision or by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding or otherwise. Each holder, by accepting the senior debt securities, waives and releases all such liability.

***Concerning the Trustee***

The senior indenture provides that, except during the continuance of a default, the trustee will not be liable, except for the performance of such duties as are specifically set forth in the senior indenture. If an event of default has occurred and is continuing, the trustee will exercise such rights and powers vested in it under the senior indenture and will use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise as a prudent person would exercise under the circumstances in the conduct of such person's own affairs.

We have normal banking relationships with the trustee under the senior indenture in the ordinary course of business.

***Unclaimed Funds***

All funds deposited with the trustee or any paying agent for the payment of principal, interest, premium or additional amounts in respect of the senior debt securities that remain unclaimed for two years after the maturity date of such senior debt securities will be repaid to us upon our request. Thereafter, any right of any noteholder to such funds shall be enforceable only against us, and the trustee and paying agents will have no liability therefor.



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### ***Governing Law***

The senior indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York.

### **Certain Terms of the Subordinated Debt Securities**

Other than the terms of the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities relating to subordination, or otherwise as described in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of subordinated debt securities, the terms of the subordinated indenture and subordinated debt securities are identical in all material respects to the terms of the senior indenture and senior debt securities. Additional or different subordination terms may be specified in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series.

### ***Subordination***

The indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities is subordinate to the prior payment in full of all our Senior Indebtedness, as defined in the subordinated indenture. During the continuance beyond any applicable grace period of any default in the payment of principal, premium, interest or any other payment due on any of our Senior Indebtedness, we may not make any payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities. In addition, upon any payment or distribution of our assets upon any dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, and interest on the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all our Senior Indebtedness. Because of this subordination, if we dissolve or otherwise liquidate, holders of our subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than holders of our Senior Indebtedness. The subordination provisions do not prevent the occurrence of an event of default under the subordinated indenture.

The term **Senior Indebtedness** of a person means with respect to such person the principal of, premium, if any, interest on, and any other payment due pursuant to any of the following, whether outstanding on the date of the subordinated indenture or incurred by that person in the future:

all of the indebtedness of that person for money borrowed, including any indebtedness secured by a mortgage or other lien which is (1) given to secure all or part of the purchase price of property subject to the mortgage or lien, whether given to the vendor of that property or to another lender, or (2) existing on property at the time that person acquires it;

all of the indebtedness of that person evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other securities sold by that person for money;

all of the lease obligations which are capitalized on the books of that person in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as in effect on the date of the subordinated indenture;

all indebtedness of others of the kinds described in the first two bullet points above and all lease obligations of others of the kind described in the third bullet point above that the person, in any manner, assumes or guarantees or that the person in effect guarantees through an agreement to purchase, whether that agreement is contingent or otherwise; and

all renewals, extensions or refundings of indebtedness of the kinds described in the first, second or fourth bullet point above and all renewals or extensions of leases of the kinds described in the third or fourth bullet point above;

*unless*, in the case of any particular indebtedness, lease, renewal, extension or refunding, the instrument or lease creating or evidencing it or the assumption or guarantee relating to it expressly provides that such indebtedness, lease, renewal, extension or refunding is not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities. Our senior debt securities constitute Senior Indebtedness for purposes of the subordinated debt indenture.



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**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants to purchase our debt or equity securities or securities of third parties or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities and may be attached to, or separate from, such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent. The terms of any warrants to be issued and a description of the material provisions of the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS**

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of:

debt or equity securities issued by us or securities of third parties, a basket of such securities, an index or indices or such securities or any combination of the above as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement;

currencies; or

commodities.

Each purchase contract will entitle the holder thereof to purchase or sell, and obligate us to sell or purchase, on specified dates, such securities, currencies or commodities at a specified purchase price, which may be based on a formula, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may, however, satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any purchase contract by delivering the cash value of such purchase contract or the cash value of the property otherwise deliverable or, in the case of purchase contracts on underlying currencies, by delivering the underlying currencies, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will also specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell such securities, currencies or commodities and any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions or other provisions relating to the settlement of a purchase contract.

The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders thereof or vice versa, which payments may be deferred to the extent set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and those payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The purchase contracts may require the holders thereof to secure their obligations in a specified manner to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Alternatively, purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations thereunder when the purchase contracts are issued. Our obligation to settle such pre-paid purchase contracts on the relevant settlement date may constitute indebtedness. Accordingly, pre-paid purchase contracts will be issued under either the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture.

**DESCRIPTION OF UNITS**

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more purchase contracts, warrants, debt securities, shares of preferred stock, shares of common stock, depositary shares or any combination of such securities.

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**FORMS OF SECURITIES**

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, each debt security, warrant, share of preferred stock, depositary share and unit will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of securities. Certificated securities in definitive form and global securities will be issued in registered form. Definitive securities name you or your nominee as the owner of the security, and in order to transfer or exchange these securities or to receive payments other than interest or other interim payments, you or your nominee must physically deliver the securities to the trustee, registrar, paying agent or other agent, as applicable. Global securities name a depositary or its nominee as the owner of the debt securities, warrants or units represented by these global securities. The depositary maintains a computerized system that will reflect each investor's beneficial ownership of the securities through an account maintained by the investor with its broker/dealer, bank, trust company or other representative, as we explain more fully below.

**Global Securities**

We may issue the registered debt securities, warrants, shares of preferred stock, depositary shares and units in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depositary or its nominee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depositary or nominee. In those cases, one or more registered global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be represented by registered global securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole by and among the depositary for the registered global security, the nominees of the depositary or any successors of the depositary or those nominees.

If not described below, any specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a registered global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depositary or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the accounts to be credited. Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of these securities in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

So long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, that depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit agreement. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by the registered global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit agreement. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for that registered global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit agreement. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security

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desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit agreement, the depositary for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities, and any payments to holders with respect to warrants or units, represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be made to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of E\*TRADE, the trustee, any warrant agent, unit agent or any other agent of E\*TRADE, agent of the trustee or agent of such warrant agent or unit agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary for any of the securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distribution of underlying securities or other property to holders of that registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that registered global security as shown on the records of the depositary. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

If the depositary for any of these securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depositary registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security that had been held by the depositary. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security will be registered in the name or names that the depositary gives to the relevant trustee, warrant agent, unit agent or other relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depositary's instructions will be based on directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the registered global security that had been held by the depositary.

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**SELLING SECURITY HOLDERS**

Information about selling security holders, if any, will be set forth in a prospectus supplement, in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or in filings we make with the SEC under the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference.

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**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We or any selling security holders may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

directly to purchasers;

through agents;

through underwriters;

through dealers;

on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the securities may be listed or quoted at the time of sale;

in the over-the-counter market;

in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or systems or in the over-the-counter market;

through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;

block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;

privately-negotiated transactions;

transactions in which a broker-dealer agrees with a selling security holder to sell a specified number of securities at a stipulated price per security;

a combination of any such methods of sale; or

any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

We will identify the specific plan of distribution, including any underwriters, dealers, agents or other purchasers, persons or entities and any applicable compensation, in a prospectus supplement, in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or in filings we make with the SEC under the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference.

#### **VALIDITY OF SECURITIES**

The validity of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be passed on for us by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP.

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**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this Prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

**Table of Contents****PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the estimated costs and expenses payable by the Registrant in connection with the sale of the securities being registered hereby.

	<b>Amount to be Paid</b>
Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee	\$ *
Printing expenses	**
Legal fees and expenses (including Blue Sky fees)	**
Trustee and transfer agent fees and expenses	**
Rating agency fees	**
Accounting fees and expenses	**
NASDAQ listing fees	**
Miscellaneous	**
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ **</b>

\* Omitted because the registration fee is being deferred pursuant to Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r).

\*\* These fees and expenses depend on the securities offered and the number of issuances, and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

Section 145 of the DGCL provides that a corporation may indemnify directors and officers as well as other employees and individuals against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed actions, suits or proceedings in which such person is made a party by reason of such person being or having been a director, officer, employee or agent to the Registrant. The DGCL provides that Section 145 is not exclusive of other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise.

The Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Registrant provide in effect that, subject to certain limited exceptions, the Registrant may indemnify its directors and officers to the extent authorized and permitted by the DGCL. The directors and officers of the Registrant are insured under policies of insurance maintained by the Registrant, subject to the limits of the policies, against certain losses arising from any claims made against them by reason of being or having been such directors or officers. In addition, the Registrant has entered into contracts with certain of its directors and officers providing for indemnification of such persons by the Registrant to the full extent authorized or permitted by law, subject to certain limited exceptions.

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL permits a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) for unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases, redemptions or other distributions, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

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The Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant provides that, to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, a director shall not be liable to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director.

**Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

(a) The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

Exhibit No.	Document
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement*
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of E*TRADE Financial Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Form 10-Q filed on August 4, 2010, File No. 001-11921)
3.2	Certificate of Amendment of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation  (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 11, 2012, File No. 001-11921)
3.3	Certificate of Designations of Preferences and Rights of the Fixed-to-Floating Rate Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A of E*TRADE Financial Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 25, 2016, File No. 001-11921)
3.4	Amended and Restated Bylaws of E*TRADE Financial Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Company's Form 10-Q filed on November 3, 2016, File No. 001-11921)
4.1	Specimen of Common Stock Certificate (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A filed July 22, 1996, File No. 333-05525)
4.2	Specimen Preferred Stock Certificate*
4.3	Form of Senior Indenture (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3ASR filed April 17, 2009, File No. 333-158636)
4.4	Form of Senior Note (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3ASR filed April 17, 2009, File No. 333-158636)
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4.8	Form of Purchase Contract*
4.9	Form of Unit Agreement*
4.10	Form of Depositary Agreement*
5.1	Opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
12.1	Statement of Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP
23.2	Consent of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney**
25.1	Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee under the Senior Indenture**

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25.2 Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee under the Subordinated Indenture\*\*

\* To be filed by amendment or by a report on Form 8-K in connection with the issuance of the applicable securities.

\*\* Previously filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

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**Item 17. Undertakings**

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made of securities registered hereby, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*provided, however*, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or

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prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

(c) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(d) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**Table of Contents****SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of New York, State of New York, on February 22, 2017.

E\*TRADE Financial Corporation

By: /s/ Karl A. Roessner  
Karl A. Roessner

Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ Karl A. Roessner Karl A. Roessner	Director and Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer)	February 22, 2017
/s/ Michael A.Pizzi Michael A.Pizzi	Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer)	February 22, 2017
/s/ Brent B. Simonich Brent B. Simonich	Corporate Controller (principal accounting officer)	February 22, 2017
* Rodger A. Lawson	Executive Chairman of the Board	February 22, 2017
* Richard J. Carbone	Director	February 22, 2017
* James P. Healy	Director	February 22, 2017
/s/ Kevin T. Kabat Kevin T. Kabat	Director	February 22, 2017
* Frederick W. Kanner	Director	February 22, 2017

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*	Director	February 22, 2017
James Lam		
*	Director	February 22, 2017
Shelley B. Leibowitz		

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<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
*	Director	February 22, 2017
Rebecca Saeger		
*	Director	February 22, 2017
Joseph L. Sclafani		
*	Director	February 22, 2017
Gary H. Stern		
*	Director	February 22, 2017
Donna L. Weaver		

\* By: /s/ Karl A. Roessner  
Karl A. Roessner  
Attorney-in-fact

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