

OCEANFIRST FINANCIAL CORP

Form S-3

June 19, 2009

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As filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on June 19, 2009

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-3**

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

**OCEANFIRST FINANCIAL CORP.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of

22-3412577  
(I.R.S. Employer

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incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

975 Hooper Avenue

Toms River, NJ 08753

(732) 240-4500

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

John R. Garbarino

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

OceanFirst Financial Corp

975 Hooper Avenue

Toms River, NJ 08753

(723) 240-4500

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service for Registrant)

*with copies to:*

Douglas P. Faucette, Esq.

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP

401 9th Street, NW

Suite 400 South

Washington, DC 20004

(202) 220-6961

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

If only the 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. p

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) 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 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. "



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- (4) The Registration Fee has been calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.
- (5) If any debt securities are issued at an original discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price of up to \$80,000,000 or the equivalent thereof in foreign currencies, less the dollar amount of any securities previously issued hereunder.
- (6) Warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities of the Registrant may be sold separately or with common stock, preferred stock or debt securities of the Registrant.

**The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

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**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and has not yet been declared effective. The securities may not be sold until the registration statement has been declared effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JUNE 19, 2009**

**PROSPECTUS**

**OCEANFIRST FINANCIAL CORP.**

**\$80,000,000**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Debt Securities**

**Warrants**

From time to time, we may offer and sell shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, debt securities and warrants, either individually or together in any combination, in one or more offerings in amounts, at prices and on terms that we will determine at the time of the offering, with a maximum aggregate initial offering price of up to \$80,000,000. We may also offer shares of common stock or preferred stock upon conversion of debt securities, common stock upon conversion of preferred stock or common stock, preferred stock or debt securities upon the exercise of warrants.

The preferred stock, common stock, debt securities and warrants are collectively referred to herein as the securities. This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be described in a supplement to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in the securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement and any applicable pricing supplement.

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol OCFC. On June 18, 2009, the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$12.04 per share. You are urged to obtain current market quotations of our common stock.

Our principal executive offices are located at 975 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753 and our telephone number is (732) 240-4500. Our Internet address is <http://www.oceanfirst.com>.

**INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES INVOLVES CERTAIN RISKS. SEE RISK FACTORS BEGINNING ON PAGE 2.**

**NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.**

**THESE SECURITIES ARE NOT DEPOSITS OR ACCOUNTS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF ANY BANK OR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION AND ARE NOT INSURED OR GUARANTEED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY.**

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers, on an immediate, continuous or delayed basis. We will set forth in the related prospectus supplement the name of the underwriters or agents, the discount or commission received by them from us as compensation, our other expenses for the offering and sale of these securities and the net proceeds we receive from the sale.

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer to sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to an aggregate amount of \$80,000,000. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents that we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities pursuant to the registration statement, we will provide a prospectus supplement and, if applicable, a pricing supplement, that will contain specific information about the securities offered and the terms of that offering. We may also prepare free writing prospectus that describe particular securities. Any free writing prospectus should also be read in connection with this prospectus and with any other prospectus supplement or pricing supplement referred to therein. For purposes of this prospectus, any reference to an applicable prospectus supplement may also refer to a pricing supplement or a free writing prospectus unless the context otherwise requires. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus and, accordingly, to the extent inconsistent, information in this prospectus is superseded by the information in the prospectus supplement.

When acquiring any securities discussed in this prospectus, you should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus and the related prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference herein and therein. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not offering the securities in any state or jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate and complete as of any date other than the date on the front cover page of those documents.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to **OceanFirst**, **we**, **our**, **ours**, and **us** refer to OceanFirst Financial Corp., which is a savings and loan holding company headquartered in Toms River, New Jersey, and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, unless the context otherwise requires. References to **OceanFirst Bank** mean OceanFirst Bank, which is our principal banking subsidiary.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference contain statements that are considered **forward looking statements** within the meaning of United States securities laws. In addition, OceanFirst and its management may make other written or oral communications from time to time that contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements, including statements about industry trends, management's future expectations and other matters that do not relate strictly to historical facts, are based certain on assumptions by management, and are often identified by the words **believe**, **expect**, **intend**, **anticipate**, **estimate**, **project** or similar expressions or variations of such terms. Forward-looking statements may include, among other things, statements about OceanFirst's confidence in its strategies and its expectations about financial performance, market growth, market and regulatory trends and developments, acquisitions and divestitures, new technologies, services and opportunities and earnings.

Forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, which change over time, are based on management's expectations and assumptions at the time the statements are made, and are not

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guarantees of future results. Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Factors which could have a material adverse effect on our operations include, but are not limited to, changes in interest rates, general economic conditions, legislative/regulatory changes, monetary and fiscal policies of the U.S. Government, including policies of the U.S. Treasury and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the quality or composition of the loan or investment portfolios, demand for loan products, deposit flows, competition, demand for financial services in our market area and accounting principles and guidelines. These risks and uncertainties should be considered in evaluating forward-looking statements and undue reliance should not be placed on statements.

Actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed in our forward-looking statements and from our historical financial results due to the factors discussed in this prospectus or disclosed in our other SEC filings. Forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing our expectations or beliefs as of any date subsequent to the time this prospectus is filed with the SEC. We undertake no obligation to revise the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus to reflect events after the time it is filed with the SEC. The factors discussed herein are not intended to be a complete summary of all risks and uncertainties that may affect our businesses. Though we strive to monitor and mitigate risk, we cannot anticipate all potential economic, operational and financial developments that may adversely impact our operations and our financial results.

Forward-looking statements should not be viewed as predictions, and should not be the primary basis upon which investors evaluate OceanFirst. Any investor in OceanFirst should consider all risks and uncertainties disclosed in our SEC filings described below under the heading *Where You Can Find More Information*, all of which are accessible on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

### **ABOUT OCEANFIRST FINANCIAL CORP.**

We are a savings and loan holding company incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware and serve as the holding company for OceanFirst Bank, a federally-chartered savings and loan association, whose principal business is attracting retail deposits from the general public in the communities surrounding its branch offices and investing those deposits, together with funds generated from operations and borrowings, primarily in single-family, owner-occupied residential mortgage loans. OceanFirst Bank conducts its banking operations through 23 branches and a loan production office and is regulated by the Office of Thrift Supervision. Our principal executive offices are located at 975 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey 08753 and our telephone number is (732) 240-4500. Our website is [www.oceanfirst.com](http://www.oceanfirst.com). Our website and the information therein or connected thereto are not intended to be incorporated into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

### **RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider any risk factors set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, and in the applicable prospectus supplement. See *Where You Can Find More Information*.

### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for any offering of securities, the net proceeds we receive from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus will be for capital expenditures, repayment of indebtedness, repurchase of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A and warrant issued to the United States Department of Treasury pursuant to its Troubled Asset Relief Program Capital Purchase Program, working capital, to make acquisitions and for general corporate purposes. Pending such use, we may temporarily invest net proceeds. We will disclose any proposal to use the net proceeds from any offering of securities in connection with an acquisition in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering.

**Table of Contents****RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERENCE DIVIDENDS TO EARNINGS**

No shares of our senior preferred stock, or any other class of preferred stock, were outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004, and we did not pay preferred stock dividends during these periods. Consequently, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends are the same as the ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the same periods listed above. The ratios of earnings to fixed charges and ratio of earnings to preferred dividends for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and the ratio of earning to fixed charges during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 are as follows:

*Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges*

|  | <b>Three Months<br/>Ended<br/>March 31,<br/>2009</b> | <b>Three Months<br/>Ended<br/>March 31,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|--|--|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges</b> |  |  |             |             |             |             |             |
| Including interest on deposits                     | 2.73X  | 2.11X  | 2.16        | 1.04X       | 1.77X       | 2.56X       | 2.40X       |
| Excluding interest on deposits                     | 1.72X  | 1.45X  | 1.48        | 1.02X       | 1.33X       | 1.71X       | 1.79X       |
| <b>Ratio of Earnings to Preferred Dividends</b>    | 9.32   | NA   | NA          | NA          | NA          | NA          | NA          |

Note: The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is calculated by adding income before income taxes plus fixed charges and dividing that sum by fixed charges.

The ratio of earnings to preferred dividends is calculated by dividing income before income taxes by the tax equivalent amount of preferred dividends (the preferred dividend divided by (1- the marginal income tax rate of 40.85%)).

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**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

We, directly or through agents, dealers or underwriters designated from time to time, may offer, issue and sell, together or separately, up to \$80,000,000 in aggregate offering price of:

shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, in one or more classes;

shares of our preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, in one or more classes or series;

secured or unsecured debt securities, in one or more series, which may be either senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities;

warrants to purchase our debt securities or common or preferred stock

any combination of the foregoing, either individually or together in any combination consisting of one or more of the following, each on terms to be determined at the time of sale.

We may issue the debt securities as exchangeable and/or convertible debt securities exchangeable for or convertible into shares of common stock or preferred stock. The preferred stock may also be exchangeable for and/or convertible into shares of common stock or another series of preferred stock. When a particular series of securities is offered, a supplement to this prospectus will be delivered with this prospectus, which will set forth the terms of the offering and sale of the offered securities.

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

Pursuant to our Certificate of Incorporation, we have the authority to issue an aggregate of 60,000,000 shares of capital stock, consisting of 55,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, issuable in series. As of June 10, 2009, we had 12,371,768 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and 38,263 shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding, all of which preferred stock are shares of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A. In addition, we had outstanding stock options granted to directors, officers and other employees for 1,650,274 shares of common stock.

The description herein does not contain all of the information that you may find useful or that may be important to you. You should refer to the provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws because they, and not the summaries, define the rights of holders of shares of our common stock. You can obtain copies of our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws by following the directions under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information." In addition, you should be aware that the summary below does not give full effect to the terms of the provisions of statutory or common law which may affect your rights as a stockholder.

**Common Stock**

Each share of our common stock has the same relative rights and is identical in all respects to each other share of our common stock. Our common stock is non-withdrawable capital, is not of an insurable type and is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental entity.

**Voting Rights**

The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters presented to stockholders. Holders of common stock are not entitled to cumulate their votes in the election of directors. However, our Certificate of Incorporation provides that a record owner of our common stock who beneficially owns, either directly or indirectly, in excess of 10% of our outstanding shares, is not entitled to any vote in respect of the shares held in excess of the 10% limit.



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### **No Preemptive or Conversion Rights**

The holders of common stock do not have preemptive rights to subscribe for a proportionate share of any additional securities issued by OceanFirst before such securities are offered to others. The absence of preemptive rights increases our flexibility to issue additional shares of common stock in connection with our acquisitions, employee benefit plans and for other purposes, without affording the holders of common stock a right to subscribe for their proportionate share of those additional securities. The holders of common stock are not entitled to any redemption privileges, sinking fund privileges or conversion rights.

### **Dividends**

Holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends ratably when, as and if declared by our board of directors from assets legally available therefor, after payment of all dividends on preferred stock, if any is outstanding. Under Delaware law, we may pay dividends out of surplus or net profits for the fiscal year in which declared and/or for the preceding fiscal year, even if our surplus accounts are in a deficit position. Dividends paid by our subsidiary bank and proceeds received from the offering of trust preferred securities have historically been the primary source of funds available to OceanFirst. We expect to use these sources of funds in the future, as well as proceeds we may obtain from the offering of common stock, preferred stock, warrants and/or debt securities for payment of dividends to our stockholders, the repurchase of our common stock and for other needs. The declaration and amount of dividends depends on circumstances existing at the time, including our earnings, financial condition and capital requirements, as well as regulatory limitations and such other factors as our board of directors deems relevant.

On January 16, 2009, OceanFirst issued to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as the initial selling security holder, Series A Preferred Stock. Pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement, the Company's ability to declare or pay dividends on any of its shares is limited. Specifically, the Company is unable to declare dividend payments on common shares if the Company is in arrears on the dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock. Further, the Company is not permitted to increase dividends on common stock above the amount of the last quarterly cash dividend per share declared prior to October 14, 2008 without the initial selling security holder's approval until the third anniversary of the investment unless all of the Series A Preferred Stock has been redeemed or transferred.

### **Liquidation**

Upon liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of our affairs, holders of common stock are entitled to receive their pro rata portion of our remaining assets after the holders of our preferred stock have been paid in full any sums to which they may be entitled.

### **Restrictions on Ownership**

Under the federal Change in Bank Control Act and Savings and Loan Holding Company Act (the Control Acts), a notice must be submitted to the Office of Thrift Supervision if any person (including a company), or group acting in concert, seeks to acquire control of a savings and loan holding company or savings association. An acquisition of control can occur upon the acquisition of 10.0% or more of the voting stock of a savings and loan holding company or savings institution or as otherwise defined by the Office of Thrift Supervision. Under the Control Acts, the Office of Thrift Supervision has 60 days from the filing of a complete notice to act, taking into consideration certain factors, including the financial and managerial resources of the acquirer and the anti-trust effects of the acquisition. Any company that so acquires control would then be subject to regulation as a savings and loan holding company.

### **Preferred Stock**

Under our Certificate of Incorporation, our board of directors is authorized to issue additional shares of our preferred stock from time to time, in one or more classes or series, without stockholder approval. Prior to the issuance of shares of each class or series, our board of directors is required by the Delaware General Corporation

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Law, or DGCL, and our Certificate of Incorporation to adopt resolutions and file a certificate of designation with the Delaware Secretary of State. The certificate of designation fixes for each class or series the designations, powers, preferences, rights, qualifications, limitations and restrictions of that class or series, including the following:

the number of shares constituting each class or series;

voting rights;

rights and terms of redemption, including sinking fund provisions;

dividend rights and rates;

terms concerning the distribution of assets;

conversion or exchange terms;

redemption prices; and

liquidation preferences.

All shares of preferred stock offered by this prospectus, when issued and paid for, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable and will not have any preemptive or subscription rights.

We will describe in a prospectus supplement relating to the class or series of any preferred stock being offered the following terms:

the title and stated value of the preferred stock;

the number of shares of the preferred stock offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of the preferred stock;

the dividend rate(s), period(s) or payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation applicable to the preferred stock;

whether dividends are cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends on the preferred stock will accumulate;

our right, if any, to defer payment of dividends and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

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the procedures for auction and remarketing, if any, for the preferred stock;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, for the preferred stock;

the provision for redemption, if applicable, of the preferred stock;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock will be convertible into common stock, including the conversion price or manner of calculation and conversion period;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;

any limitations on issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the class or series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of the preferred stock.

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### **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

#### **Delaware Law**

We are subject to Section 203 of the DGCL. Section 203 generally prohibits a public Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless:

prior to the date of the transaction, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or 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, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding (a) shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers of the corporation and (b) shares issued under employee stock plans under which employee participants do not have the right to determine whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to the date of the transaction, the business combination is approved by the board and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines a business combination to include:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

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

subject to exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of its stock 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.

In general, Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as 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 the entity or person.

#### **Certain Provisions of OceanFirst's Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws**

The following discussion is a general summary of the material provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws and certain other regulatory provisions that may be deemed to have an anti-takeover effect. The following description of certain of these provisions is necessarily general and, with respect to provisions contained in our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws, reference should be made in each case to the document in question.

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Our Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws contain a number of provisions, relating to corporate governance and rights of stockholders, that might discourage future takeover attempts. As a result, stockholders who might desire to participate in such transactions may not have an opportunity to do so. In addition, these provisions will also render the removal of our board of directors or management more difficult.

The following description is a summary of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) as to how to review a copy of these documents.

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**Directors.** The board of directors is divided into three classes. The members of each class will be elected for a term of three years and only one class of directors will be elected annually. Thus, it would take at least two annual elections to replace a majority of our board of directors. Further, the bylaws impose notice and information requirements in connection with the nomination by stockholders of candidates for election to the board of directors or the proposal by stockholders of business to be acted upon at an annual meeting of stockholders.

**Restrictions on Call of Special Meetings.** The Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws provide that special meetings of stockholders can be called only by the board of directors pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of the total number of authorized directorships. Stockholders are not authorized to call a special meeting of stockholders.

**Prohibition of Cumulative Voting.** The Certificate of Incorporation prohibits cumulative voting for the election of directors.

**Limitation of Voting Rights.** The Certificate of Incorporation provides that in no event will any record owner of any outstanding common stock which is beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by a person who beneficially owns more than 10% of the then outstanding shares of common stock, be entitled or permitted to vote any of the shares held in excess of the 10% limit.

**Restrictions on Removing Directors from Office.** The Certificate of Incorporation provides that Directors may be removed only for cause by the vote of 80% of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at an annual or special meeting called for that purpose (after giving effect to the limitation on voting rights discussed above in Limitation of Voting Rights ).

**Authorized but Unissued Shares.** We have authorized but unissued shares of common and preferred stock. The Certificate of Incorporation authorizes 5,000,000 shares of serial preferred stock. We are authorized to issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more series subject to applicable provisions of law, and the board of directors is authorized to fix the designations, and relative preferences, limitations, voting rights, if any, including without limitation, offering rights of such shares (which could be multiple or as a separate class). See Preferred Stock. In the event of a proposed merger, tender offer or other attempt to gain control of OceanFirst that the board of directors does not approve, it might be possible for the board of directors to authorize the issuance of a series of preferred stock with rights and preferences that would impede the completion of the transaction. An effect of the possible issuance of additional preferred stock, therefore may be to deter a future attempt to gain control of OceanFirst.

**Amendments to Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws.** Amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation must be approved by our board of directors and also by a majority of our outstanding shares of voting stock; provided, however, that approval by at least 80% of the outstanding voting stock is generally required to amend the following provisions:

the limitation on voting rights of persons who directly or indirectly offer to acquire or acquire the beneficial ownership of more than 10% of any class of equity security of OceanFirst;

the inability of stockholders to act by written consent;

the inability of stockholders to call special meetings of stockholders;

the division of the board of directors into three staggered classes;

the ability of the board of directors to fill vacancies on the board;

the inability to deviate from the manner prescribed in the bylaws by which stockholders nominate directors and bring other business before meetings of stockholders;

the requirement that at least 80% of stockholders must vote to remove directors, and can only remove directors for cause;

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the ability of the board of directors to amend and repeal the bylaws; and

the ability of the board of directors to evaluate a variety of factors in evaluating offers to purchase or otherwise acquire OceanFirst. The bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors of OceanFirst or the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the total votes eligible to be voted at a duly constituted meeting of stockholders.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Holders of our common stock are not, and will not be, subject to any liability as stockholders.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

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

## **DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, which may consist of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. Warrants may be offered independently or together with common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement, and may be attached to or separate from those securities. While the terms we have summarized below will generally apply to any future warrants we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any warrants that we may offer in more detail in the prospectus supplement. The terms of any warrants we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

We may issue the warrants under a warrant agreement which we may enter into with a warrant agent to be selected by us. We use the term "warrant agreement" to refer to any of these warrant agreements. We use the term "warrant agent" to refer to the warrant agent under any of these warrant agreements. The warrant agent will act solely as an agent of ours in connection with the warrants and will not act as an agent for the holders or beneficial owners of the warrants.

The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement applicable to a particular series of warrants. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement related to the warrants that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete warrant agreements that contain the terms of the warrants.

### **General**

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms relating to a series of warrants. If warrants for the purchase of debt securities are offered, the prospectus supplement will describe the following terms, to the extent applicable:

the offering price and the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the currencies in which the warrants are being offered;

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currencies, denominations and terms of the series of debt securities that can be purchased if a holder exercises a warrant;

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the designation and terms of any series of debt securities with which the warrants are being offered and the number of warrants offered with each such debt security;

the principal amount of the series of debt securities that can be purchased if a holder exercises a warrant and the price at which and currencies in which such principal amount may be purchased upon exercise;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants begins and the date on which such right expires;

federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the warrants.

Warrants for the purchase of debt securities will be in registered form only.

If warrants for the purchase of common stock or preferred stock are offered, the prospectus supplement will describe the following terms, to the extent applicable:

the offering price and the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the total number of shares that can be purchased if a holder of the warrants exercises them and, in the case of warrants for preferred stock, the designation, total number and terms of the series of preferred stock that can be purchased upon exercise;

the designation and terms of any series of preferred stock with which the warrants are being offered and the number of warrants being offered with each share of common stock or preferred stock;

the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock that can be purchased if a holder exercises the warrant and the price at which such common stock or preferred stock may be purchased upon exercise, including, if applicable, any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price and in the securities or other property receivable upon exercise;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call, or accelerate the expiration of, the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants begins and the date on which that right expires;

federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the warrants.

Warrants for the purchase of common stock or preferred stock will be in registered form only.

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If the warrants are offered attached to common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, the prospectus supplement will also describe the date on and after which the holder of the warrants can transfer them separately from the related common stock, series of preferred stock or debt securities.

A holder of warrant certificates may exchange them for new certificates of different denominations, present them for registration of transfer and exercise them at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Until any warrants to purchase debt securities are exercised, the holder of the warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities that can be purchased upon exercise, including any rights to receive payments of principal, premium or interest on the underlying debt securities or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture. Until any warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock are exercised, holders of the warrants will not have any rights of holders of the underlying common stock or preferred stock, including any rights to receive dividends or to exercise any voting rights, except to the extent set forth under **Warrant Adjustments** below.

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### **Exercise of Warrants**

Each holder of a warrant is entitled to purchase the principal amount of debt securities or number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, at the exercise price described in the prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the day when the right to exercise terminates (or a later date if we extend the time for exercise), unexercised warrants will become void.

A holder of warrants may exercise them by following the general procedure outlined below:

delivering to the warrant agent the payment required by the applicable prospectus supplement to purchase the underlying security;

properly completing and signing the reverse side of the warrant certificate representing the warrants; and

delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to the warrant agent within five business days of the warrant agent receiving payment of the exercise price.

If you comply with the procedures described above, your warrants will be considered to have been exercised when the warrant agent receives payment of the exercise price, subject to the transfer books for the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrant not being closed on such date. After you have completed those procedures and subject to the foregoing, we will, as soon as practicable, issue and deliver to you the debt securities, common stock or preferred stock that you purchased upon exercise. If you exercise fewer than all of the warrants represented by a warrant certificate, a new warrant certificate will be issued to you for the unexercised amount of warrants. Holders of warrants will be required to pay any tax or governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with transferring the underlying securities in connection with the exercise of the warrants.

### **Amendments and Supplements to the Warrant Agreements**

We may amend or supplement a warrant agreement without the consent of the holders of the applicable warrants to cure ambiguities in the warrant agreement, to cure or correct a defective provision in the warrant agreement, or to provide for other matters under the warrant agreement that we and the warrant agent deem necessary or desirable, so long as, in each case, such amendments or supplements do not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of the warrants.

### **Warrant Adjustments**

Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, the exercise price of, and the number of securities covered by, a common stock warrant or preferred stock warrant will be adjusted proportionately if we subdivide or combine our common stock or preferred stock, as applicable. In addition, unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, if we, without receiving payment for:

issue capital stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or preferred stock, or any rights to subscribe for, purchase or otherwise acquire any of the foregoing, as a dividend or distribution to holders of our common stock or preferred stock;

pay any cash to holders of our common stock or preferred stock other than a cash dividend paid out of our current or retained earnings or other than in accordance with the terms of the preferred stock;

issue any evidence of our indebtedness or rights to subscribe for or purchase our indebtedness to holders of our common stock or preferred stock; or

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issue common stock or preferred stock or additional stock or other securities or property to holders of our common stock or preferred stock by way of spinoff, split-up, reclassification, combination of shares or similar corporate rearrangement, then the holders of common stock warrants and preferred stock warrants, as applicable, will be entitled to receive upon exercise of the warrants, in addition to the securities otherwise receivable upon exercise of the warrants and

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without paying any additional consideration, the amount of stock and other securities and property such holders would have been entitled to receive had they held the common stock or preferred stock, as applicable, issuable under the warrants on the dates on which holders of those securities received or became entitled to receive such additional stock and other securities and property.

Except as stated above or as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the exercise price and number of securities covered by a common stock warrant and preferred stock warrant, and the amounts of other securities or property to be received, if any, upon exercise of those warrants, will not be adjusted or provided for if we issue those securities or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for those securities, or securities carrying the right to purchase those securities or securities convertible into or exchangeable for those securities.

Holders of common stock warrants and preferred stock warrants may have additional rights under the following circumstances:

certain reclassifications, capital reorganizations or changes of the common stock or preferred stock, as applicable;

certain share exchanges, mergers, or similar transactions involving us and which result in changes of the common stock or preferred stock, as applicable; or

certain sales or dispositions to another entity of all or substantially all of our property and assets.

If one of the above transactions occurs and holders of our common stock or preferred stock are entitled to receive stock, securities or other property with respect to or in exchange for their securities, the holders of the common stock warrants and preferred stock warrants then outstanding, as applicable, will be entitled to receive upon exercise of their warrants the kind and amount of shares of stock and other securities or property that they would have received upon the applicable transaction if they had exercised their warrants immediately before the transaction.

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**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

**Debt may be Senior or Subordinated**

We may issue senior or subordinated debt securities. The senior debt securities and, in the case of debt securities in bearer form, any coupons to these securities, will constitute part of our senior debt and, except as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, will rank on a parity with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities and any coupons will constitute part of our subordinated debt and will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness (as defined herein). If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with a series of subordinated debt securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the information we incorporate in this prospectus by reference will indicate the approximate amount of senior indebtedness outstanding as of the end of the most recent fiscal quarter. If issued, there will be one indenture for senior debt securities and one for subordinated debt securities.

**Payments**

We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series. The provisions of each indenture may allow us to reopen a previous issue of a series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that issue. The debt securities may be denominated and payable in U.S. dollars.

Debt securities may bear interest at a fixed rate or a floating rate, which, in either case, may be zero, or at a rate that varies during the lifetime of the debt security. Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities.

**Terms Specified in Prospectus Supplement**

The prospectus supplement will contain, where applicable, the following terms of and other information relating to any offered debt securities:

classification as senior or subordinated debt securities and the specific designation;

aggregate principal amount, purchase price and denomination;

currency in which the debt securities are denominated and/or in which principal, and premium, if any, and/or interest, if any, is payable;

date of maturity;

the interest rate or rates or the method by which the interest rate or rates will be determined, if any;

the interest payment dates, if any;

the place or places for payment of the principal of and any premium and/or interest on the debt securities;

any repayment, redemption, prepayment or sinking fund provisions, including any redemption notice provisions;

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whether we will issue the debt securities in registered form or bearer form or both and, if we are offering debt securities in bearer form, any restrictions applicable to the exchange of one form for another and to the offer, sale and delivery of those debt securities in bearer form;

whether we will issue the debt securities in definitive form and under what terms and conditions;

the terms on which holders of the debt securities may convert or exchange these securities into or for common or preferred stock or other securities of ours offered hereby, into or for common or preferred

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stock or other securities of an entity affiliated with us or debt or equity or other securities of an entity not affiliated with us, or for the cash value of our stock or any of the above securities, the terms on which conversion or exchange may occur, including whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option, the period during which conversion or exchange may occur, the initial conversion or exchange price or rate and the circumstances or manner in which the amount of common or preferred stock or other securities issuable upon conversion or exchange may be adjusted;

information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest payable on any date and/or the currencies, securities or baskets of securities, commodities or indices to which the amount payable on that date is linked;

any agents for the debt securities, including trustees, depositories, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars;

the depository for global certificated securities, if any; and

any other specific terms of the debt securities, including any additional events of default or covenants, and any terms required by or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

### **Registration and Transfer of Debt Securities**

Holders may present debt securities for exchange, and holders of registered debt securities may present these securities for transfer, in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions stated in the debt securities and described in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will provide these services without charge except for any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with these services and subject to any limitations provided in the applicable indenture.

If any of the securities are to be held in global form, the procedures for transfer of interests in those securities will depend upon the procedures of the depository for those global securities. See [Legal Ownership of Securities](#) [Global Securities](#).

### **Subordination Provisions**

The prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities will describe the specific subordination provisions. However, unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the subordinated indenture. The indenture for any subordinated debt securities will define the applicable senior indebtedness. Senior indebtedness shall continue to be senior indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such senior indebtedness.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the circumstances under which we may withhold payment of principal of, or any premium or interest on, any subordinated debt securities. In such event, any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, which would otherwise (but for the subordination provisions) be payable or deliverable in respect of the subordinated debt securities, will be paid or delivered directly to the holders of senior indebtedness or their representatives or trustees in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders as calculated by us until all senior indebtedness has been paid in full. If any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities is received by the trustee of any subordinated debt securities in contravention of any of the terms of the subordinated indenture and before all the senior indebtedness has been paid in full, such payment or distribution will be received in trust for the benefit of, and paid over or delivered to, the holders of the senior indebtedness or their representatives or trustees at the time outstanding in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders as calculated by us for application to the payment of all senior indebtedness remaining unpaid to the extent necessary to pay all such senior indebtedness in full.

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### **Covenants**

The applicable prospectus supplement will contain, where applicable, the following information about any senior debt securities issued under it:

the terms and conditions of any restrictions on our ability to create, assume, incur or guarantee any indebtedness for borrowed money that is secured by a pledge, lien or other encumbrance; and

the terms and conditions of any restrictions on our ability to merge or consolidate with any other person or to sell, lease or convey all or substantially all of our assets to any other person.

### **Events of Default**

The indenture for any senior debt securities will provide holders of the securities with the terms of remedies if we fail to perform specific obligations, such as making payments on the debt securities or other indebtedness, or if we become bankrupt. Holders should review these provisions and understand which of our actions trigger an event of default and which actions do not. The indenture may provide for the issuance of debt securities in one or more series and whether an event of default has occurred may be determined on a series by series basis. The events of default will be defined under the indenture and described in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement will contain:

the terms and conditions, if any, by which the securities holders may declare the principal of all debt securities of each affected series and interest accrued thereon to be due and payable immediately; and

the terms and conditions, if any, under which all of the principal of all debt securities and interest accrued thereon shall be immediately due and payable.

The prospectus supplement will also contain a description of the method by which the holders of the outstanding debt securities may annul past declarations of acceleration of, or waive past defaults of, the debt securities.

The indenture will contain a provision entitling the trustee, subject to the duty of the trustee during a default to act with the required standard of care, to be indemnified by the holders of debt securities issued under the indenture before proceeding to exercise any trust or power at the request of holders. The prospectus supplement will contain a description of the method by which the holders of outstanding debt securities may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the applicable trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

The indenture will provide that no individual holder of debt securities may institute any action against us under the indenture, except actions for payment of overdue principal and interest. The prospectus supplement will contain a description of the circumstances under which a holder may exercise this right.

The indenture will contain a covenant that we will file annually with the trustee a certificate of no default or a certificate specifying any default that exists.

### **Discharge**

The prospectus supplement will contain a description of our ability to eliminate most or all of our obligations on any series of debt securities prior to maturity provided we comply with the provisions described in the prospectus supplement.

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We will also have the ability to discharge all of our obligations, other than as to transfers and exchanges, under any series of debt securities at any time, which we refer to as defeasance. We may be released with respect to any outstanding series of debt securities from the obligations imposed by any covenants limiting liens and consolidations, mergers, and asset sales, and elect not to comply with those sections without creating an event of default. Discharge under those procedures is called covenant defeasance. The conditions we must satisfy to exercise covenant defeasance with respect to a series of debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Modification of the Indenture**

The prospectus supplement will contain a description of our ability and the terms and conditions under which, with the applicable trustee, we may enter into supplemental indentures which make certain changes that do not adversely affect in any material respect the interests of the holders of any series without the consent of the holders of debt securities issued under a particular indenture.

The prospectus supplement will contain a description of the method by which we and the applicable trustee, with the consent of the holders of outstanding debt securities, may add any provisions to, or change in any manner or eliminate any of the provisions of, the applicable indenture or modify in any manner the rights of the holders of those debt securities. The prospectus supplement will also describe the circumstances under which we may not exercise on this right without the consent of each holder that would be affected by such change.

We may not amend a supplemental indenture relating to subordinated debt securities to alter the subordination of any outstanding subordinated debt securities without the written consent of each potentially adversely affected holder of subordinated and senior indebtedness then outstanding.

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### **SUPERVISION AND REGULATION**

Our principal subsidiary, OceanFirst Bank, is a federally-chartered savings and loan association and is subject to regulation and supervision by the Office of Thrift Supervision, or OTS and by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC. As the holding company for OceanFirst Bank, we are a savings and loan holding company subject to regulation and supervision by the OTS.

In addition, dividends, loans and advances from OceanFirst Bank are restricted by certain laws and regulations. The FDIC and the OTS can limit OceanFirst Bank's payment of dividends based on, among other factors, the maintenance of adequate capital for such subsidiary bank.

For a discussion of the material elements of the regulatory framework applicable to savings and loan holding companies and their subsidiaries, and specific information relevant to us, you should refer to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and the subsequent quarterly and current reports filed by us with the SEC pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. This regulatory framework is intended primarily for the protection of depositors and the deposit insurance funds rather than for the protection of security holders.

Changes to the laws and regulations applicable to us or our subsidiaries can affect the operating environment of savings and loan holding companies and their subsidiaries in substantial and unpredictable ways. We cannot accurately predict whether those changes in laws and regulations will occur, and, if those changes occur, the ultimate effect they would have upon our or our subsidiaries' financial condition or results of operations.

### **LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable trustee or depository or warrant agent maintain for this purpose as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as indirect holders of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

#### **Book-Entry Holders**

We may issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depository on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Global securities will be registered in the name of the depository or its participants. Consequently, for global securities, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depository. The depository passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a global security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the

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depository's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the securities.

### **Street Name Holders**

We may terminate a global security or issue securities that are not issued in global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we or any applicable trustee or depository will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we or any such trustee or depository will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not holders, of those securities.

### **Legal Holders**

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable trustee or third party employed by us or a trustee, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, we may want to obtain the approval of the holders to amend an indenture, to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture, or for other purposes. In such an event, we would seek approval only from the legal holders, and not the indirect holders, of the securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the legal holders.

### **Special Considerations For Indirect Holders**

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form because the securities are represented by one or more global securities or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are global securities, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.



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### **Global Securities**

A global security is a security which represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depository. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we issue to, deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, commonly referred to as DTC, will be the depository for all global securities issued under this prospectus.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under **Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated**. As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued as a global security, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

### **Special Considerations For Global Securities**

As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a legal holder of securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.

If securities are issued only as a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

An investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

An investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above;

An investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

An investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in the global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

The depository's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in the global security. We and any applicable trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in the global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depository in any way;



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The depositary may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in the global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

Financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in the global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

### **Special Situations When A Global Security Will Be Terminated**

In a few special situations described below, a global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

A global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;

if we notify any applicable trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived. The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depositary, and not we or any applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

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**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The securities described in this prospectus may be sold in any of the following ways: (1) through underwriters or dealers; (2) through agents; or (3) directly to one or more purchasers (through a specific bidding or auction process or otherwise).

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

In connection with the sale of securities, underwriters or agents may receive compensation from us or from purchasers of the securities for whom they may act as agents in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents. If a dealer is utilized to sell the securities, we will sell such securities to the dealer as principal. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at any time of resale.

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts or commissions received by them from us and any profit on the resale of the securities by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions, under the Securities Act. Any such underwriter, dealer or agent will be identified, and any such compensation received from us will be described, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Offers to purchase the securities may be solicited directly and the sale thereof may be made directly to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resale thereof. The terms of any such sales will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto, including the terms of any bidding or auction process.

If so indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain specified institutions to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. Such contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement and the prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for the solicitation of such contracts.

Certain persons participating in an offering may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with rules and regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a short covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at anytime.

If we use dealers in the sale of securities, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at carrying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

Underwriters or agents could make sales in privately negotiated transactions and/or any other method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in Rule 415 promulgated

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under the Securities Act, which includes sales made directly on or through the NASDAQ Global Select Market, the existing trading market for our ordinary shares, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

Under agreements which may be entered into by us, underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of the securities may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make in respect thereof.

Certain of the underwriters, dealers or agents and their associates may be customers of, engage in transactions with, and perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

The securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. We cannot assure you that there will be a market for the securities.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA, the maximum consideration or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP, Washington, D.C. Certain legal matters in connection with an offering pursuant to this prospectus will be passed upon for the underwriters, dealers and/or agents by counsel to be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of OceanFirst Financial Corp. and subsidiary as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

## **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our website at <http://www.oceanfirst.com>. Our website is not a part of this prospectus. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other 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 previously filed information, including information contained in this prospectus. In all cases, you should rely on the later information over different information included in this prospectus.

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We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until we have sold all shares offered by this prospectus or until this offering is otherwise completed, except to the extent that any information contained in such filings is deemed furnished in accordance with SEC rules:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed on March 13, 2009;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, filed on May 11, 2009;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 8, 2009; January 20, 2009; January 26, 2009 (Item 8.01 only); February 9, 2009; April 24, 2009 (Item 8.01 only); May 7, 2009; May 28, 2009; and June 12, 2009.

Proxy Statement filed with the SEC on April 3, 2009; and

The description of our common stock contained in our Form 8-A as filed with the SEC pursuant to Sections 12(b) and 12(g) of the Exchange Act, on May 8, 1996.

In addition, we also incorporate by reference into this prospectus additional information that we subsequently file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of the offering. These documents include annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and current reports on Form 8-K, as well as proxy statements. Unless specifically stated to the contrary, none of the information we disclose under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 (or former Item 9 or Item 12) of any current report on Form 8-K that we may from time to time furnish to the SEC will be incorporated by reference into, or otherwise, included in this prospectus.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

OceanFirst Financial Corp.

975 Hooper Avenue

Toms River, NJ 08753

Attention: Jill Apito Hewitt ,

(732) 240-4500 extension 7516

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein shall be deemed modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document that is deemed to be incorporated herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. **You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with additional or different information. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities in any state where the offer or sale of these securities is not permitted.**

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

The following table sets forth an estimate of the various expenses payable by Registrant in connection with the securities being registered under this registration statement. All amounts other than the Securities and Exchange Commission registration fees are estimated:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission - Registration fee | \$ 4,464          |
| Legal fees and expenses                               | 50,000            |
| Accounting fees and expenses                          | 50,000            |
| Trustee fees and expenses                             | 30,000            |
| Printing expenses                                     | 30,000            |
| Other   | 30,000            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                 | <b>\$ 194,464</b> |

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

In accordance with the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (being Chapter 1 of Title 8 of the Delaware Code), Articles 10 and 11 of the Registrant's Certificate of Incorporation provide as follows:

**TENTH:**

A. Each person who was or is made a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise involved in any action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (hereinafter a proceeding), by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a Director or an Officer of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a Director, Officer, employee or agent of another corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including service with respect to an employee benefit plan (hereinafter an indemnitee), whether the basis of such proceeding is alleged action in an official capacity as a Director, Officer, employee or agent, or in any other capacity while serving as a Director, Officer, employee or agent, shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Corporation to the fullest extent authorized by the Delaware General Corporation Law, as the same exists or may hereafter be amended (but, in the case of any such amendment, only to the extent that such amendment permits the Corporation to provide broader indemnification rights than such law permitted the Corporation to provide prior to such amendment), against all expense, liability and loss (including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, ERISA excise taxes or penalties and amounts paid in settlement) reasonably incurred or suffered by such indemnitee in connection therewith; provided, however, that, except as provided in Section C hereof with respect to proceedings to enforce rights to indemnification, the Corporation shall indemnify any such indemnitee in connection with a proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such indemnitee only if such proceeding (or part thereof) was authorized by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

B. The right to indemnification conferred in Section A of this Article TENTH shall include the right to be paid by the Corporation the expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding in advance of its final disposition (hereinafter an advancement of expenses); provided, however, that, if the Delaware General Corporation Law requires, an advancement of expenses incurred by an indemnitee in his or her capacity as a Director or Officer (and not in any other capacity in which service was or is rendered by such indemnitee, including, without limitation, services to an employee benefit plan) shall be made only upon delivery to the Corporation of an undertaking (hereinafter an undertaking), by or on behalf of such indemnitee, to repay all amounts so advanced if it shall ultimately be determined by final judicial decision from which there is no further right to appeal (hereinafter a final adjudication) that such indemnitee is not entitled to be indemnified for such

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expenses under this Section or otherwise. The rights to indemnification and to the advancement of expenses conferred in Sections A and B of this Article TENTH shall be contract rights and such rights shall continue as to an indemnitee who has ceased to be a Director, Officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the indemnitee's heirs, executors and administrators.

C. If a claim under Section A or B of this Article TENTH is not paid in full by the Corporation within sixty days after a written claim has been received by the Corporation, except in the case of a claim for an advancement of expenses, in which case the applicable period shall be twenty days, the indemnitee may at any time thereafter bring suit against the Corporation to recover the unpaid amount of the claim. If successful in whole or in part in any such suit, or in a suit brought by the Corporation to recover an advancement of expenses pursuant to the terms of an undertaking, the indemnitee shall be entitled to be paid also the expenses of prosecuting or defending such suit. In (i) any suit brought by the indemnitee to enforce a right to indemnification hereunder (but not in a suit brought by the indemnitee to enforce a right to an advancement of expenses) it shall be a defense that, and (ii) in any suit by the Corporation to recover an advancement of expenses pursuant to the terms of an undertaking the Corporation shall be entitled to recover such expenses upon a final adjudication that, the indemnitee has not met any applicable standard for indemnification set forth in the Delaware General Corporation Law. Neither the failure of the Corporation (including its Board of Directors, independent legal counsel, or its stockholders) to have made a determination prior to the commencement of such suit that indemnification of the indemnitee is proper in the circumstances because the indemnitee has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in the Delaware General Corporation Law, nor an actual determination by the Corporation (including its Board of Directors, independent legal counsel, or its stockholders) that the indemnitee has not met such applicable standard of conduct, shall create a presumption that the indemnitee has not met the applicable standard of conduct or, in the case of such a suit brought by the indemnitee, be a defense to such suit. In any suit brought by the indemnitee to enforce a right to indemnification or to an advancement of expenses hereunder, or by the Corporation to recover an advancement of expenses pursuant to the terms of an undertaking, the burden of proving that the indemnitee is not entitled to be indemnified, or to such advancement of expenses under this Article TENTH, or otherwise shall be on the Corporation.

D. The rights to indemnification and to the advancement of expenses conferred in this Article TENTH shall not be exclusive of any other right which any person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, the Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, agreement, vote of stockholders or Disinterested Directors or otherwise.

E. The Corporation may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Corporation or subsidiary or Affiliate or another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any expense, liability or loss, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such expense, liability or loss under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

F. The Corporation may, to the extent authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors, grant rights to indemnification and to the advancement of expenses to any employee or agent of the Corporation to the fullest extent of the provisions of this Article TENTH with respect to the indemnification and advancement of expenses of Directors and Officers of the Corporation.

**ELEVENTH:**

A Director of this 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) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or (iv) for any transaction from which the Director derived an improper personal benefit. If the Delaware General Corporation Law is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or

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limiting the personal liability of Directors, then the liability of a Director of the Corporation shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, as so amended.

Any repeal or modification of the foregoing paragraph by the stockholders of the Corporation shall not adversely affect any right or protection of a Director of the Corporation existing at the time of such repeal or modification.

**Item 16. Exhibits**

See Exhibit Index immediately following the signature page hereof, which is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 17. Undertakings**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

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

(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this 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 this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in the 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 Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement; *provided, however*, that paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) 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 Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of this registration statement.

(2) That, for the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at the 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 of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) each prospectus filed by a 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

(ii) 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

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the Securities Act of 1933 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 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 a registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 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 registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 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 this 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.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the indemnification provisions described herein, 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 Securities Act of 1933 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 Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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(d) 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.

(e) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that:

(i) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

(ii) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus 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.

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

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, 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 registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the State of New Jersey, on June 19, 2009.

**OCEANFIRST FINANCIAL CORP.**

By: */s/* JOHN R. GARBARINO  
**John R. Garbarino**  
**Chairman, President and Chief**  
**Executive Officer**

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints John R. Garbarino and Michael J. Fitzpatrick (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead in any and all capacities to sign any or all amendments or post-effective amendments to this Registration Statement, including post-effective amendments filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act, as amended, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, to sign any and all applications, registration statements, notices or other document necessary or advisable to comply with the applicable state securities laws, and to file the same, together with all other documents in connection therewith, with the appropriate state securities authorities, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or their, his or her substitute or substitutes, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, thereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or their, his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| <b>Name</b>                       | <b>Title</b>                                    | <b>Date</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <i>/s/</i> JOHN R. GARBARINO      | Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer | June 17, 2009 |
| <b>John R. Garbarino</b>          | (principal executive officer)                   |               |
| <i>/s/</i> MICHAEL J. FITZPATRICK | Chief Financial Officer                         | June 17, 2009 |
| <b>Michael J. Fitzpatrick</b>     | (principal financial officer)                   |               |
| <i>/s/</i> JOSEPH J. BURKE        | Director  | June 17, 2009 |
| <b>Joseph J. Burke</b>            |   |               |
| <i>/s/</i> ANGELO CATANIA         | Director  | June 17, 2009 |
| <b>Angelo Catania</b>             |   |               |
| <i>/s/</i> CARL FELTZ, JR.        | Director  | June 17, 2009 |
| <b>Carl Feltz, Jr.</b>            |   |               |



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| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Title</b> | <b>Date</b>   |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| /s/ JOHN W. CHADWICK<br><b>John W. Chadwick</b>         | Director     | June 17, 2009 |
| /s/ DONALD E. McLAUGHLIN<br><b>Donald E. McLaughlin</b> | Director     | June 17, 2009 |
| /s/ DIANE F. RHINE<br><b>Diane F. Rhine</b>             | Director     | June 17, 2009 |
| /s/ JOHN E. WALSH<br><b>John E. Walsh</b>               | Director     | June 17, 2009 |

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------------|--|
| 1.1*               | Form of Underwriting Agreement   |
| 4.1                | Certificate of Incorporation of OceanFirst Financial Corp. (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to OceanFirst Financial Corp. s Form S-1 (Registration No. 33-80123) effective May 13, 1996, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference).   |
| 4.2                | Certificate of Designations (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to OceanFirst Financial Corp. s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 20, 2009 and incorporated herein by reference).  |
| 4.3                | Bylaws of OceanFirst Financial Corp. (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to OceanFirst Financial Corp. s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002 filed on March 25, 2003 and incorporated herein by reference).  |
| 4.4                | Form of Certificate for the Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, Par Value \$0.01 per share (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to OceanFirst Financial Corp. s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 20, 2009 and incorporated herein by reference)                     |
| 4.5                | Letter Agreement, dated as of January 16, 2009, between OceanFirst Financial Corp. and the United States Department of the Treasury (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to OceanFirst Financial Corp. s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 20, 2009 and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 4.6                | Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock, dated January 16, 2009, to purchase shares of Common Stock of OceanFirst Financial Corp. (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to OceanFirst Financial Corp. s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 20, 2009 and incorporated herein by reference). |
| 4.7*               | Form of Preferred Stock Certificate and Certificate of Designation of Preferred Stock  |
| 4.8                | Specimen Common Stock Certificate of OceanFirst Financial Corp. (filed as an Exhibit to OceanFirst Financial Corp. s Form S-1 (Registration No. 33-80123) effective May 13, 1996, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference).   |
| 4.9*               | Form of Senior Indenture   |
| 4.10*              | Form of Subordinated Indenture   |
| 4.12*              | Form of Junior Subordinated Debenture Indenture  |
| 4.13*              | Form of Senior Debt Security   |
| 4.14*              | Form of Subordinated Debt Security   |
| 4.15*              | Form of Junior Subordinated Debt Security  |
| 4.16*              | Form of Debt Warrant Agreement (including Debt Warrant Certificate)  |
| 4.17*              | Form of Preferred Stock Warrant Agreement (including Preferred Stock Warrant Certificate)  |
| 4.18*              | Form of Common Stock Warrant Agreement (including Common Stock Warrant Certificate)  |
| 5.1                | Opinion of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP  |
| 12.1               | Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preference Dividends to Earnings   |
| 23.1               | Consent of KPMG LLP  |
| 23.2               | Consent of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)  |
| 24.1               | Power of Attorney of certain officers and directors (located on the signature page to the Registration Statement)  |
| 25.1*              | Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of the Trustee under the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture and the Junior Subordinated Debenture Indenture  |

\* To be filed by amendment or by report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference.