

Ladder Capital Corp  
Form S-3ASR  
March 06, 2015

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 6, 2015

No. 333-

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

---

**FORM S-3**  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

---

**LADDER CAPITAL CORP**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

---

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**80-0925494**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**345 Park Avenue, 8th Floor  
New York, New York 10154  
(212) 715-3170**

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

---

**Marc Fox  
Chief Financial Officer  
Ladder Capital Corp  
345 Park Avenue, 8th Floor  
New York, New York 10154  
(212) 715-3170**

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

---

**Copies of all communications, including communications sent to agent for service, should be sent to:**

Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

Joshua N. Korff, Esq.  
 Michael Kim, Esq.  
 Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
 601 Lexington Avenue  
 New York, New York 10022  
 (212) 446-4800

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer <input type="radio"/>	Accelerated filer <input type="radio"/>	Non-accelerated filer <input checked="" type="radio"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller Reporting Company <input type="radio"/>
--	--	---	--

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1)	Amount to be Registered(2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Primary Offering by Ladder Capital Corp:				
Class A Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)
Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)
Warrants	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)
Debt Securities	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)
Guarantees of Debt Securities	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Secondary Offering by Selling Stockholders:

Class A Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	(3)	(3)	(3)	(4)
Class A Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	80,959,036	\$18.57(6)	\$1,503,409,298.52(6)	\$174,696.16

- (1) Securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or together with other securities registered hereunder, in any combination, including with securities added at a later date.
- (2) In accordance with Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this registration statement shall be deemed to cover any additional securities to be offered or issued from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions with respect to the securities being registered.
- (3) An indeterminate aggregate offering price and amount of securities of each identified class is being registered as may be offered from time to time at indeterminate prices.
- (4) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, the registrant is deferring payment of these registration fees, which will be paid from time to time in connection with one or more offerings of securities to be made hereunder.
- (5) No separate consideration will be received for guarantees. Pursuant to Rule 457(n) under the Securities Act, no separate fee is payable with respect to guarantees.
- (6) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act, based on the average of the high and low prices of our Class A common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on March 2, 2015. The proposed maximum offering price per share of Class A common stock will be determined from time to time by the selling stockholders named herein, or such additional selling stockholders as may be named in one or more prospectus supplements, in connection with, and at the time of, the sale by such selling stockholders of the shares of Class A common stock registered hereunder.
-

Table of Contents

**Prospectus**

**Ladder Capital Corp**  
**Class A Common Stock**  
**Preferred Stock**  
**Warrants**  
**Debt Securities**  
**Guarantees of Debt Securities**  
**Class A Common Stock by the Selling Stockholders**  
**80,959,036 Shares of Class A Common Stock by the Selling Stockholders**

---

Ladder Capital Corp ("Ladder" or the "Company") may offer, from time to time, one or more series or classes, separately or together, and in amounts, at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus, shares of our Class A common stock, shares of our preferred stock, warrants to purchase shares of our Class A common stock or preferred stock, debt securities and guarantees of debt securities (collectively, the "securities").

In addition, the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus and such additional selling stockholders as may be named in one or more prospectus supplements (collectively, the "Selling Stockholders") may offer and sell shares of our Class A common stock from time to time in amounts, at prices and on terms that will be determined at the time of the offering. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of our Class A common stock offered by the Selling Stockholders.

We may offer and sell these securities, and the Selling Stockholders may sell shares of our Class A common stock, to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. The specific terms of any securities to be offered will be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. Our registration of the securities covered by this prospectus does not mean that we will offer or sell any of the securities or that the Selling Stockholders will offer or sell any shares of our Class A common stock.

Our Class A common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbol "LADR." The last sale price of our Class A common stock on March 5, 2015, as reported by NYSE, was \$18.94 per share.

We have two authorized classes of common stock: Class A and Class B. Holders of our Class A common stock and holders of our Class B common stock are each entitled to one vote per share of the applicable class of common stock. All such holders vote together as a single class. However, holders of our Class B common stock do not have any right to receive dividends or distributions upon our liquidation or winding up. Each share of Class B common stock is, from time to time, exchangeable, when paired together with one LP Unit (as defined herein), for one share of Class A common stock, subject to equitable adjustment for stock splits, stock dividends and reclassifications.

We are an "emerging growth company," as that term is defined under the federal securities laws and, as such, are subject to certain reduced public company reporting requirements.

**See "Risk Factors" on page 2 to read about factors you should consider before investing in our securities.**

Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

This prospectus may not be used to offer and sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

---

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") nor any state securities commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

---

**The date of this prospectus is March 6, 2015.**

---

Table of Contents

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	i
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	ii
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>	ii
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	2
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	3
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DIVIDENDS</u>	6
<u>SELLING STOCKHOLDERS</u>	7
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	19
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES AND GUARANTEES</u>	20
<u>U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	23
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	47
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	51
<u>EXPERTS</u>	51

Neither we nor the Selling Stockholders have authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus or any associated "free writing prospectus." In this prospectus, any reference to an applicable prospectus supplement may refer to a "free writing prospectus," unless the context otherwise requires. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of the document.

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC using a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf process, we may from time to time offer and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings and the Selling Stockholders may, from time to time, offer and sell shares of our Class A common stock in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer, as well as the shares of our Class A common stock that the Selling Stockholders may offer. Each time we sell any of the securities named in this prospectus, or the Selling Stockholders sell shares of our Class A common stock, we will, to the extent required by law, provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of that offering. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement may add information to this prospectus or update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the headings "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference."

# Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

## Table of Contents

You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus.

Unless the context indicates otherwise, references in this prospectus to "Ladder," "Ladder Capital," the "Company," "we," "us" and "our" refer (1) prior to the February 2014 initial public offering ("IPO") of the Class A common stock of Ladder Capital Corp and related transactions, to Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP ("LCFH"), a Delaware limited liability limited partnership, and its combined consolidated subsidiaries and (2) after the IPO and related transactions, to Ladder Capital Corp and its combined consolidated subsidiaries. The phrase "this prospectus" refers to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, unless the context otherwise requires.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Ladder Capital Corp files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The public may read and copy the information we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>.

Our website address is located at <http://www.laddercapital.com>. Through links on the "Investor Relations" portion of our website, we make available free of charge our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Such material is made available through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file the information with, or furnish it to, the SEC. **The information contained on our website is not intended to form a part of, or be incorporated by reference into, this prospectus.**

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

## INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information about us by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents and reports listed below (other than portions of these documents that are either (1) described in paragraph (e) of Item 201 of Registration S-K or paragraphs (d)(1)-(3) and (e)(5) of Item 407 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC or (2) deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, including Current Reports on Form 8-K furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 (including any financial statements or exhibits relating thereto furnished pursuant to Item 9.01), unless otherwise indicated therein:

Ladder Capital Corp's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 (our "Annual Report on Form 10-K") filed with the SEC on March 6, 2015;

Ladder Capital Corp's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 5, 2015 and March 2, 2015; and

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

The description of our Class A common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, included under the caption "Description of Capital Stock" in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on February 4, 2014 (File No. 001-36299).

We also incorporate by reference the information contained in all other documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (other than portions of these documents that are either (1) described in paragraph (e) of Item 201 of Regulation S-K or paragraphs (d)(1)-(3) and (e)(5) of Item 407 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC or (2) deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, including Current Reports on Form 8-K furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 (including any financial statements or exhibits relating thereto furnished pursuant to Item 9.01, unless otherwise indicated therein) after the date of this prospectus and prior to the completion of the offering of all securities covered by the respective prospectus supplement. The information contained in any such document will be considered part of this prospectus from the date the document is filed with the SEC.

If you make a request for such information in writing or by telephone, we will provide you, without charge, a copy of any or all of the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Any such request should be directed to:

Ladder Capital Corp  
345 Park Avenue, 8th Floor  
New York, New York 10154  
Attention: Investor Relations  
Telephone: (212) 715-3170

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus, in any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. We are not offering to sell or soliciting any offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of the applicable document.



Table of Contents

**SUMMARY**

*The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. It may not contain all the information that may be important to you. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the section titled "Risk Factors" and our historical consolidated financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K.*

*Certain figures included in this prospectus have been subject to rounding adjustments. Therefore, figures shown as totals in certain tables may not sum due to rounding.*

**Our Company**

We are an internally-managed real estate investment trust ("REIT") that is a leader in commercial real estate finance. As a non-bank lender with a proprietary loan origination platform and an established national footprint, we believe that we are well-positioned to benefit from the opportunities arising from the diminished supply of debt capital and the substantial demand for new financings in the commercial real estate sector. We believe that our comprehensive, fully-integrated in-house infrastructure, access to a diverse array of committed financing sources and highly experienced management team of industry veterans will allow us to continue to execute and grow our business prudently as we endeavor to capitalize on profitable opportunities in various market conditions.

We conduct our business through three major business lines: commercial mortgage lending, investments in securities secured by first mortgage loans and equity investments in selected net leased and other real estate assets. Historically, we have been able to generate attractive risk-adjusted returns by flexibly allocating capital among these well-established, complementary business lines. We believe that we have a competitive advantage through our ability to offer a wide range of products, providing complete solutions across the capital structure to our borrowers. We apply a comprehensive underwriting approach to every loan and investment that we make, rooted in management's deep understanding of fundamental real estate values and proven expertise in these three complementary business lines through multiple economic and credit cycles.

**Corporate Information**

Ladder Capital Corp was incorporated on May 21, 2013 in Delaware. Our principal executive offices are located at 345 Park Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, New York 10154, and our telephone number is (212) 715-3170. We maintain a website at [www.laddercapital.com](http://www.laddercapital.com). **The information contained on our website is not intended to form a part of, or be incorporated by reference into, this prospectus.**

Table of Contents

**RISK FACTORS**

Our business is subject to uncertainties and risks. You should consider carefully all of the information set forth in any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, unless expressly provided otherwise, including the risk factors incorporated by reference from in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as updated by our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other filings we make with the SEC. The risks described in any document incorporated by reference herein are not the only ones we face, but are considered by us to be the most material. There may be other unknown or unpredictable economic, business, competitive, regulatory or other factors that could have material adverse effects on our future results. The market price of our securities could decline if one or more of these risks or uncertainties actually occur, causing you to lose all or part of your investment in our securities. See "Where You Can Find More Information" elsewhere in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless indicated otherwise in any applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of any securities offered by us under this prospectus and any related prospectus supplement for our operations and for general corporate purposes. These purposes may include financing of acquisitions and capital expenditures, additions to working capital and repayment or redemption of existing indebtedness. Additional information on the use of net proceeds from the sale of securities that we may offer from time to time by this prospectus may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering.

Unless otherwise indicated in any applicable prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares of our Class A common stock by any Selling Stockholder named in such prospectus supplement. All of the shares of Class A common stock offered by the Selling Stockholders pursuant to this prospectus will be sold by the Selling Stockholders for their own account. We may, however, bear a portion of the expenses of the offering of Class A common stock by the Selling Stockholders, except that the Selling Stockholders will pay any applicable underwriting fees, discounts or commissions and certain transfer taxes.

Table of Contents

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. All statements other than statements of historical facts contained in this prospectus, including statements regarding our future results of operations and financial position, strategy and plans, and our expectations for future operations, are forward-looking statements. The words "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "project," "plan," "intend," "believe," "may," "might," "will," "should," "can have," "likely," "continue," "design" and other words and terms of similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events and trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, strategy, short-term and long-term business operations and objectives and financial needs. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in our forward-looking statements are reasonable, actual results could differ from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Our future financial position and results of operations, as well as any forward-looking statements are subject to change and inherent risks and uncertainties. You should consider our forward-looking statements in light of a number of factors that may cause actual results to vary from our forward-looking statements including, but not limited to:

changes in general economic conditions, in our industry and in the commercial finance and the real estate markets;

changes to our business and investment strategy;

our ability to obtain and maintain financing arrangements;

the financing and advance rates for our assets;

our actual and expected leverage;

the adequacy of collateral securing our loan portfolio and a decline in the fair value of our assets;

interest rate mismatches between our assets and our borrowings used to fund such investments;

changes in interest rates and the market value of our assets;

changes in prepayment rates on our assets;

the effects of hedging instruments and the degree to which our hedging strategies may or may not protect us from interest rate and credit risk volatility;

the increased rate of default or decreased recovery rates on our assets;

the adequacy of our policies, procedures and systems for managing risk effectively;

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

a potential downgrade in the credit ratings assigned to our investments;

the impact of and changes in governmental regulations, tax laws and rates, accounting guidance and similar matters;

our ability to maintain our qualification as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes and our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to operate in compliance with REIT requirements;

our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to maintain our and their exemptions from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended;

potential liability relating to environmental matters that impact the value of properties we may acquire or the properties underlying our investments;

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

the inability of insurance covering real estate underlying our loans and investments to cover all losses;

the availability of investment opportunities in mortgage-related and real estate-related instruments and other securities;

fraud by potential borrowers;

the availability of qualified personnel;

the degree and nature of our competition;

the market trends in our industry, interest rates, real estate values, the debt securities markets or the general economy;

the prepayment of the mortgages and other loans underlying our mortgage-backed and other asset backed securities; and

the risk factors set forth in our public filings with the SEC.

You should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. In addition, neither we nor any other person assumes responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of any of these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus are made as of the date hereof, and the Company assumes no obligation to update or supplement any forward-looking statements.

See "Risk Factors" for a more complete discussion of the risks and uncertainties mentioned above and for discussion of other risks and uncertainties. All forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements as well as others made in this prospectus and hereafter in our other SEC filings and public communications. You should evaluate all forward-looking statements made by us in the context of these risks and uncertainties.

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

The following table sets forth the combined ratio of our earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends for each of the periods included. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and operating lease rental expense that is representative of the interest factor.

(\$ in thousands)	For the Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b>Earnings:</b>					
Pre-tax income before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees	\$ 122,241	\$ 189,260	\$ 170,782	\$ 72,894	\$ 91,644
Fixed charges	78,168	49,356	37,033	36,055	49,077
Distributed income of equity investees	1,957	3,894	1,404		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 202,366</b>	<b>\$ 242,510</b>	<b>\$ 209,219</b>	<b>\$ 108,949</b>	<b>\$ 140,721</b>
<b>Fixed charges:</b>					
Interest expense	\$ 77,574	\$ 48,745	\$ 36,440	\$ 35,836	\$ 48,874
Operating lease rental expense(1)	594	611	593	219	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 78,168</b>	<b>\$ 49,356</b>	<b>\$ 37,033</b>	<b>\$ 36,055</b>	<b>\$ 49,077</b>
<b>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges:</b>	<b>2.59</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>2.87</b>

(1) Operating lease rental expense that is representative of the interest factor (generally presumed to be 1/3).

Dividends paid on preferred securities issued would be included as fixed charges and therefore impact the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends. As of the date of this prospectus, we have not issued any shares of our preferred stock.

Table of Contents**SELLING STOCKHOLDERS**

The following table sets forth certain information as of March 3, 2015 regarding the beneficial ownership of our Class A common stock by the Selling Stockholders listed in the table below, which from time to time may offer shares of our Class A common stock. Information with respect to beneficial ownership is based on information obtained from the Selling Stockholders and publicly available information. Information with respect to shares beneficially owned after the offering assumes the sale of all the shares offered and no other purchases or sales of common stock. In addition, certain Selling Stockholders hold LP Units and shares of our Class B common stock, which are, together, exchangeable for an equal number of shares of our Class A common stock pursuant to the terms and in the manner set forth in the LLLP Agreement (as defined herein). See "Description of Capital Stock Class B Common Stock Exchange for Class A Common Stock".

We understand certain of our executive officers may in the future adopt written stock trading plans pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act ("Rule 10b5-1 plans"), allowing them to sell some or all of their shares of our Class A common stock over time as part of their financial, tax and/or estate planning. Certain of the Selling Stockholders listed in the table below may, from time to time, sell their shares of our Class A common stock registered under this registration statement through their respective Rule 10b5-1 plans.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner(4)	Beneficial Ownership Prior to Offering(1)(2)(3)		Number of Shares Being Offered	Shares Beneficially Owned After Offering(1)(2)(3) Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock		Number of Shares	Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock
Entities affiliated with GI Partners(5)	16,905,717	17.0	16,905,717		
Entities affiliated with TowerBrook(6)	15,971,945	16.0	15,971,945		
Entities affiliated with Alberta Investment Management Corporation(7)	11,133,793	11.2	11,133,793		
OCP LCF Holdings Inc.(8)	5,503,429	5.5	5,503,429		
Entities affiliated with Constitution Capital Partners(9)	2,761,180	2.8	2,761,180		
Meridian LCF LLC(10)	2,364,718	2.4	2,364,718		
Entities affiliated with ROC Capital Pty Limited(11)	2,289,108	2.3	2,289,108		
Arizona PSPRS Trust(12)	2,093,153	2.1	2,093,153		
MEL MAC ALT LLC(13)	1,840,787	1.8	1,840,787		
Entities affiliated with Safanad (Dubai) Limited(14)	1,298,942	1.3	1,298,942		
Kajima Ladder LLC(15)	920,394	*	920,394		
Entities affiliated with Northleaf Capital Partners(16)	788,531	*	788,531		
Entities affiliated with Northgate Capital(17)	644,276	*	644,276		
BJH Realty LLC(18)	460,197	*	460,197		
1530 Investments LLC(19)	313,231	*	313,231		
Private Equity Capital Germany SeCS SICAR(20)	238,351	*	238,351		
LRFI, LLC(21)	230,098	*	230,098		
Entities affiliated with Solamere Capital(22)	230,098	*	230,098		



Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner(4)	Beneficial Ownership Prior to Offering(1)(2)(3)		Number of Shares Being Offered	Shares Beneficially Owned After Offering(1)(2)(3) Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock		Number of Shares	Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock
Thomas Lally(23)	208,822	*	208,822		
Unicapital Investments V(24)	115,064	*	115,064		
Schroder & Co Bank AG(25)	92,039	*	92,039		
Republic Nominees Limited A/C 1206(26)	70,500	*	70,500		
Dewey K. Shay(27)	57,121	*	57,121		
Aaron Welsh(28)	44,849	*	44,849		
Lucy Halperin(29)	14,280	*	14,280		
George Kok(30)	9,613	*	9,613		
<b>Directors, Executive Officers and Affiliates</b>					
Brian Harris and a Harris Trust(31)	5,235,001	5.3	5,235,001		
Seymour Holding Corporation(32)	3,132,307	3.1	3,132,307		
Greta Guggenheim(33)	1,146,631	1.2	1,146,631		
Alan Fishman(34)	1,036,434	1.0	1,036,434		
Peterson Partners V, L.P.(35)	977,631	1.0	977,631		
Michael Mazzei(36)	971,247	1.0	971,247		
Pamela McCormack(37)	573,783	*	573,783		
Thomas Harney(38)	412,894	*	412,894		
Marc Fox(39)	282,562	*	282,562		
Robert Perelman(40)	126,657	*	126,657		
Christina and Caroline Mazzei Irrevocable Trust 2009(41)	463,653	*	463,653		

\*

Represents less than 1%

(1)

Includes vested and unvested shares and assumes all vested and unvested LP Units and shares of Class B common stock outstanding are exchanged for shares of our Class A common stock. For each selling stockholder, the total number of shares listed assumes that any outstanding options held by such selling stockholder are fully vested and exercised, whether or not they would be deemed to have beneficial ownership of such shares as of the date hereof.

(2)

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3(d) of the Exchange Act. To our knowledge, each of the persons named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by it, subject to the information contained in the footnotes to this table.

(3)

There were 51,958,908 shares of our Class A common stock outstanding and 47,645,132 shares of our Class B common stock outstanding as of February 27, 2015.

(4)

The address of our Executive Officers and Messrs. Fishman and Welsh is c/o Ladder Capital, 345 Park Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10154.

(5)

Includes (i) 13,987,509 shares of Class B common stock held by GI Ladder Holdco LLC, (ii) 2,551,749 shares of Class A common stock held by GI Partners Fund III-A L.P. and (iii) 366,459 shares of Class A common stock held by GI Partners Fund III-B L.P. (collectively, the "GI Funds"), which are affiliates of GI Partners. The natural person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock held by GI Ladder Holdco LLC and the Class A common stock held by GI Partners Fund III-A L.P. and GI Partners Fund III-B L.P. is Howard Park (one of our directors), a managing director of GI Partners. GI Partners may be deemed

Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

to be the beneficial owner of the Class A common stock and Class B common stock beneficially owned by the GI Funds, but disclaims such beneficial ownership pursuant to rules under the Securities

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Mr. Park may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the securities beneficially owned by the GI Funds, but disclaims such beneficial ownership (except as to any pecuniary interest therein) pursuant to rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The address of the GI Funds is c/o GI Partners, 188 The Embarcadero, Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94105, Attn: David Smolen.

- (6) Includes 6,027,333 shares of Class A common stock held by TowerBrook Investors II AIV, L.P. and 9,944,612 shares of Class B common stock held by TI II Ladder Holdings, LLC (collectively, the "TowerBrook Holdcos"). TI II Ladder Holdings, LLC is owned by TowerBrook Investors II, L.P. and TowerBrook Investors II Executive Fund, L.P. TowerBrook Investors II AIV, L.P., TowerBrook Investors II, L.P. and TowerBrook Investors II Executive Fund, L.P. (collectively, the "TowerBrook Funds") are advised by TowerBrook. The natural persons that have voting or dispositive power over the Class A common stock and Class B common stock beneficially owned by the TowerBrook Holdcos and the TowerBrook Funds are Neal Moszkowski and Ramez Sousou. TowerBrook may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of Class A common stock and Class B common stock beneficially owned by the TowerBrook Holdcos and the TowerBrook Funds, but disclaims such beneficial ownership pursuant to rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Jonathan Bilzin (one of our directors) is a managing director of TowerBrook and may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of Class A common stock and Class B common stock beneficially owned by the TowerBrook Holdcos and the TowerBrook Funds, but disclaims such beneficial ownership (except as to any pecuniary interest therein) pursuant to rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The address of the TowerBrook Holdcos and the TowerBrook Funds is c/o TowerBrook Capital Partners L.P., 65 East 55th Street, 27th Floor, New York, New York 10022, Attn: Glenn F. Miller.
- (7) Includes (i) 5,856,375 shares of Class A common stock held by GP09 PX (LAPP) Ladder Capital Ltd., (ii) 1,280,386 shares of Class A common stock held by GP09 PX Ladder Capital Ltd. and (iii) 3,997,032 shares of Class A common stock held by GP09 GV Ladder Capital Ltd. (collectively, the "AIMCo Funds"), which are each directly or indirectly owned by entities advised by Alberta Investment Management Corporation, which may be deemed to have voting and investment power with respect to shares held by the AIMCo Funds. The address for each of the AIMCo Funds is 1100 - 10830 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta Canada, T5J 2B3, Attn: James Ridout and Caroline Kowall.
- (8) Comprises 5,503,429 shares of Class A common stock held by OCP LCF Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of OMERS Administration Corporation. The address for OCP LCF Holdings Inc. is c/o OMERS Private Equity Inc., 200 Bay Street, Suite 2010, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2J2, Canada, Attn: General Counsel.
- (9) Includes 2,421,141 shares of Class A common stock held by USS-Constitution Co-Investment Fund, L.P. and 340,039 shares of Class B common stock held by Ironsides Co-Investment Fund II, L.P. (collectively, the "Constitution Capital Funds"). The general partner of USS-Constitution Co-Investment Fund, L.P. is USS-Constitution GP, LLC and the general partner of Ironsides Co-Investment Fund II, L.P. is Ironsides II GP, LLC. The natural persons having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock held by the Constitution Capital Funds are the members of the general partners of the Constitution Capital Funds, who are Daniel Cahill, John Guinoe, Robert Hatch, Peter Melanson, Vicente Ramos, William Richardson and Alex Tatum. The address of the Constitution Capital Funds is c/o Constitution Capital Partners, 300 Brickstone Square, Suite 1001, Andover, MA 01810, Attn: Rob Hatch.
- (10) Comprises 2,364,718 shares of Class B common stock held by Meridian LCF LLC. The natural person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock held by Meridian LCF LLC is Ralph Herzka. Mr. Herzka was a director of LCFH until February 2014. The address of Meridian LCF LLC is c/o Meridian Capital Group, 1 Battery Park Plaza, New York, NY 10005, Attn: Aaron Birnbaum.
- (11) Includes (i) 997,588 shares of Class B common stock held by Bond Street Custodians Limited as custodian for Macquarie Investment Management Limited as trustee for Macquarie Global Private

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

Equity Fund, (ii) 920,394 shares of Class B common stock held by Bond Street Custodians Limited as custodian for ROC Capital Pty Limited as trustee for ROC Private Opportunities Fund and (iii) 371,126 shares of Class B common stock held by ROC Capital Pty Limited as trustee for Q Private Equity Trust (collectively, the "ROC Funds"). The governance, investment strategy and decision-making process with respect to investments held by the ROC Funds is directed by ROC Capital Pty Limited, the investment manager for the ROC Funds, whose investment committee is comprised of the following individuals: Michael Lukin, Shaw Ng and Andrew Savage. The address of the ROC Funds is Level 38, 259 George St, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia, Attn: Brad Mytton.

- (12) Comprises 2,093,153 shares of Class B common stock held by Arizona PSPRS Trust. The natural persons having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock held by Arizona PSPRS Trust are its authorized signatories Jared A. Smout, Deputy Administrator, Ryan Parham, Chief Investment Officer, Martin Anderson, Deputy Chief Investment Officer and Mark Steed, Leader Portfolio Manager. The address of Arizona PSPRS Trust is 3010 E. Camelback Road, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85016, Attn: In-House Investment Counsel.
- (13) Comprises 1,840,787 shares of Class B common stock held by MEL MAC ALT LLC. The natural persons having voting or dispositive power over the Class B common stock held by MEL MAC ALT LLC are Avi Schron, Mark Schron and Eli Schron, the managing members. The address of MEL MAC ALT LLC is 45 Broadway, 25th Floor, New York, NY 10006, Attn: Jack Bojman.
- (14) Includes 1,173,942 shares of Class A common stock held by Rantawi Limited and 125,000 shares of Class A common stock held by Kohat Limited. The natural persons having voting and dispositive control over the shares of Class A common stock held by Rantawi Limited and Kohat Limited are Kamal Bahamdan, Ahmed Farid and Mark Benn. The address of Rantawi Limited and Kohat Limited is c/o Maples Corporate Services Limited, Uglund House, South Church Street, George Town KY1-1104, Cayman Islands.
- (15) Comprises 920,394 shares of Class B common stock held by Kajima Ladder LLC. The natural person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock held by Kajima Ladder LLC is Moriaki Chashi. The address of Kajima Ladder LLC is 3475 Piedmont Road NE, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30305, Attn: Mitsuoyoshi Tamura.
- (16) Includes (i) 155,080 shares of Class A common stock held by Northleaf Private Equity Investors Partnership II ("Partnership II"), (ii) 606,830 shares of Class A common stock held by Northleaf Capital Private Equity Collector (Canada) LP ("Collector (Canada)"), and (iii) 26,621 shares of Class A common stock held by Northleaf Global Private Equity Investors (International) III LP ("Investors (International)") and, together with Partnership II and Collector (Canada), the "Northleaf Funds"). Northleaf Capital Partners (Canada) Ltd. carries on business as Partnership II. Northleaf Capital Partners GP Ltd. is the general partner of Collector (Canada). Northleaf Capital Advisors Ltd. is the manager of Investors (International). The address of the Northleaf Funds is 79 Wellington Street West, 6th Floor, Box 120, Toronto, ON, M5K 1N9, Canada.
- (17) Includes 571,756 shares of Class B common stock held by NP-IV-V, L.P. and 72,520 shares of Class B common stock held by NP IV-P, L.P. (collectively, the "Northgate Funds"). NC IV, LLC is the general partner of the Northgate Funds. The person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock held by the Northgate Funds is Brent Jones, the managing member of NC IV, LLC. The address of the Northgate Funds is 649 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville, CA 94526, Attn: Mo Virani.
- (18) Comprises 460,197 shares of Class B common stock held by BJH Realty LLC. The natural person having voting or dispositive power over the Class B common stock held by BJH Realty LLC is Ben Heller. The address of BJH Realty LLC is c/o Heller Realty, 745 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1250, New York, NY 10151, Attn: Ben Heller.
- (19) Comprises 313,231 shares of Class B common stock held by 1530 Investments LLC. The natural person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock held by 1530 Investments LLC is Charles B. Moss III, manager and member. The address of 1530 Investments LLC is c/o of Bow Tie Partners, 1530 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Ben Moss.

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

- (20) Comprises 238,351 shares of Class A common stock held by Private Equity Capital Germany SeCS SICAR ("Private Equity Germany"). The natural persons having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class A common stock beneficially owned by Private Equity Germany are the directors of the general partner, Private Equity Capital Germany (GP), S.à.r.l.: Bernard Sabrier, Gérard Pfauwadel, Benoît Paquay and Olivier Noel. The address of Private Equity Germany is c/o Northern Trust, 6 Lou Hemmer, L-1749 Senningerberg, Luxembourg, Attn: Innocent Sanga.
- (21) Comprises 230,098 shares of Class B common stock held by LRFI, LLC. The person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class A common stock held by LRFI, LLC is Leslie Rieder. The address of LRFI, LLC is 45 Broadway, Suite 2640, New York, NY 10006, Attn: Sam Reider.
- (22) Includes (i) 126,683 shares of Class A common stock owned by Solamere Founders Fund I, LP, (ii) 80,093 shares of Class A common stock owned by Solamere Founders Fund I-B, LP, (iii) 5,835 shares of Class A common stock owned by SFF Portfolio Company Investments LLC Co-Investment Series I and (iv) 17,487 shares of Class A common stock owned by SFF Portfolio Company Investments LLC Co-Investment Series II (together, the "Solamere Funds"). The persons having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class A common stock beneficially owned by the Solamere Funds are: Taggart Romney, Spencer Zwick and Eric Schevermann. The address of the entities is 137 Newbury St, 7th Floor, Boston, MA 02116, Attn: Kearney Shanahan.
- (23) Comprises 208,822 shares of Class B common stock held by Thomas Lally. Mr. Lally was an employee of the Company until October 2014.
- (24) Comprises 115,064 shares of Class A common stock held by Unicapital Investments V. The natural persons having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class A common stock beneficially owned by Unicapital Investments V are the directors of the management company, Unicapital Investments (Management) SA: Bernard Sabrier, Gérard Pfauwadel, Benoît Paquay and Olivier Noel. The address of Unicapital Investments V is c/o Northern Trust, 6 Lou Hemmer, L-1749 Senningerberg, Luxembourg, Attn: Innocent Sanga.
- (25) Comprises 92,039 shares of Class A common stock held by Schroder & Co Bank AG. The person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class A common stock beneficially owned by Schroder & Co Bank AG is Unigestion Holdings. The address of Schroder & Co Bank AG is Central 2 Postfach 1820, 8021, Zurich, Switzerland, Attn: Sven Stadler.
- (26) Comprises 70,500 shares of Class A common stock held by Republic Nominees Limited a/c 1206 ("Republic"). The person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class A common stock beneficially owned by Republic is Republic Nominees Limited as registered shareholder as nominee. Republic Nominees Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of HSBC Private Banking Holdings (Suisse) S.A. The address of Republic is c/o HSBC Private Bank (CI) Limited, Park Place, Park Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1EE, Channel Islands.
- (27) Comprises 57,121 shares of Class B common stock held by Dewey Shay.
- (28) Includes 5,325 shares of Class A common stock and 39,524 shares of Class B common stock held by Aaron Welsh. Mr. Welsh is an employee of the Company.
- (29) Comprises 14,280 shares of Class B common stock held by Lucy Halperin.
- (30) Comprises 9,613 shares of Class B common stock held by George Kok. Mr. Kok was an employee of the Company until December 2014.
- (31) Includes 990,269 shares of Class A common stock held by Brian Harris and 4,244,732 shares of Class B common stock held by Betsy A. Harris 2012 Family Trust. Mr. Harris is a trustee of Betsy A. Harris 2012 Family Trust. The number of Class A common stock is

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

inclusive of 275,128 shares of Class A common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of options exercisable on February 18, 2016, February 18, 2017 and February 18, 2018.

- (32) Comprises 3,132,307 shares of Class B common stock held by Seymour Holding Corporation. The natural persons having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock beneficially owned by Seymour Holding Corporation are Douglas Durst, chairman, and Jonathan

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

Durst, president. Douglas Durst is a member of our Board of Directors. The address of Seymour Holding Corporation is c/o The Durst Organization, One Bryant Park, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Ira Marx.

- (33) Includes 219,865 shares of Class A common stock and 926,766 shares of Class B common stock held by Greta Guggenheim. The number of Class A common stock is inclusive of 69,070 shares of Class A common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of options exercisable on February 18, 2016, February 18, 2017 and February 18, 2018.
- (34) Includes 61,478 shares of Class A common stock and 974,956 shares of Class B common stock held by Alan Fishman.
- (35) Comprises 977,631 shares of Class B common stock held by Peterson Partners V, L.P. The natural persons having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock held by Peterson Partners V, L.P. are the members of the board of Peterson Partners Inc., which is the general partner of Peterson Partners V, L.P. These board members are Joel Peterson, founding partner, Clint Peterson, chief executive officer and Brandon Cope, partner. Joel Peterson is a member of our Board of Directors. The address of Peterson Partners V, L.P. is 2755 E. Cottonwood Pkwy, Salt Lake City, UT 84121, Attn: Eric Noble.
- (36) Includes 548,163 shares of Class A common stock and 423,084 shares of Class B common stock held by Michael Mazzei. The number of Class A common stock is inclusive of 138,140 shares of Class A common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of options exercisable on February 18, 2016, February 18, 2017 and February 18, 2018.
- (37) Includes 283,614 shares of Class A common stock and 290,169 shares of Class B common stock held by Pamela McCormack. The number of Class A common stock is inclusive of 73,674 shares of Class A common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of options exercisable on February 18, 2016, February 18, 2017 and February 18, 2018.
- (38) Includes 211,539 shares of Class A common stock and 201,355 shares of Class B common stock held by Thomas Harney. The number of Class A common stock is inclusive of 51,802 shares of Class A common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of options exercisable on February 18, 2016, February 18, 2017 and February 18, 2018.
- (39) Includes 103,405 shares of Class A common stock and 179,157 shares of Class B common stock held by Marc Fox. The number of Class A common stock is inclusive of 34,535 shares of Class A common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of options exercisable on February 18, 2016, February 18, 2017 and February 18, 2018.
- (40) Includes 89,930 shares of Class A common stock and 36,727 shares of Class B common stock held by Robert Perelman. The number of Class A common stock is inclusive of 27,907 shares of Class A common stock that can be acquired upon the exercise of options exercisable on February 18, 2016, February 18, 2017 and February 18, 2018.
- (41) Comprises 463,653 shares of Class B common stock held by Christina and Caroline Mazzei Irrevocable Trust 2009. The natural person having voting or dispositive control over the shares of Class B common stock held by Christina and Caroline Mazzei Irrevocable Trust 2009 is Jennifer Russo, trustee. Ms. Russo is the sister-in-law of Michael Mazzei, an officer of our Company.

Table of Contents

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

*The following is a description of the material terms of our Second Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (our "Certificate of Incorporation") and Amended and Restated Bylaws (our "Bylaws"). We refer you to our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, copies of which have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.*

**Authorized Capitalization**

Our authorized capital stock consists of 600,000,000 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, 100,000,000 shares of Class B common stock, no par value, and 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share.

As of March 2, 2015, 51,958,908 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, were issued and outstanding, 47,654,132 shares of Class B common stock, no par value, were issued and outstanding, and no shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share, were issued and outstanding.

Unless our Board of Directors determines otherwise, we issue all shares of our capital stock in uncertificated form.

**Class A Common Stock**

*Voting Rights*

Holders of shares of Class A common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by the shareholders. The holders of Class A common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors.

*Dividend Rights*

Subject to the rights of the holders of any preferred stock that may be outstanding and any contractual or statutory restrictions, holders of our Class A common stock are entitled to receive equally and ratably, share for share, dividends as may be declared by our Board of Directors out of funds legally available to pay dividends. Dividends upon our Class A common stock may be declared by the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, and may be paid in cash, in property, or in shares of capital stock. Before payment of any dividend, there may be set aside out of any of our funds available for dividends, such sums as the Board of Directors deems proper as reserves to meet contingencies, or for equalizing dividends, or for repairing or maintaining any of our property, or for any proper purpose, and the Board of Directors may modify or abolish any such reserve.

*Liquidation Rights*

Upon liquidation, dissolution, distribution of assets or other winding up, the holders of Class A common stock are entitled to receive ratably the assets available for distribution to the stockholders after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preference of any of our outstanding shares of preferred stock.

*Other Matters*

The shares of Class A common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights and are not subject to further calls or assessment by us. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the Class A common stock. All outstanding shares of our Class A common stock are fully paid and non-assessable.



Table of Contents

**Class B Common Stock**

*Voting Rights*

Holders of shares of Class B common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record by such holder on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Holders of shares of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock vote together as a single class on all matters presented to our stockholders for their vote or approval, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

*No Dividend or Liquidation Rights*

Holders of our Class B common stock do not have any right to receive dividends or to receive a distribution upon a liquidation or winding up of Ladder Capital Corp.

*Exchange for Class A Common Stock*

Pursuant to the Third Amended and Restated Limited Liability Limited Partnership Agreement effective as of December 31, 2014 (the "LLLP Agreement") of LCFH, all assets and liabilities of LCFH were allocated on its books and records to two series of LCFH, consisting of "Series REIT" and "Series TRS." Each outstanding limited partnership interest in LCFH was converted into one limited partnership unit of Series REIT ("Series REIT LP Unit") and one limited partnership unit of Series TRS ("Series TRS LP Unit"), and the outstanding Series TRS LP Units are exchangeable for the same number of limited liability company interests of LC TRS I LLC ("LC TRS I Share"), which is a limited liability company that is a U.S. taxable REIT subsidiary of the Company and the general partner of Series TRS. Each Series REIT LP Unit, when paired together with one LC TRS I Share (or Series TRS LP Unit in lieu of such LC TRS I Share), is referred to herein as an "LP Unit." Holders may from time to time, subject to certain conditions, exchange one LP Unit and one share of the Company's Class B common stock for one share of the Company's Class A common stock, subject to equitable adjustments for stock splits, stock dividends and reclassifications. See "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence Amended and Restated Limited Liability Limited Partnership Agreement of LCFH" set forth in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

**Preferred Stock**

Our Certificate of Incorporation authorizes our Board of Directors to establish one or more series of preferred stock and to determine, with respect to any series of preferred stock, the terms and rights of that series, including:

the designation of the series;

the number of shares of the series which our Board of Directors may, except where otherwise provided in the preferred stock designation, increase or decrease, but not below the number of shares then outstanding;

whether dividends, if any, will be cumulative or non-cumulative and the dividend rate of the series;

the dates at which dividends, if any, will be payable;

the redemption rights and price or prices, if any, for shares of the series;

the terms and amounts of any sinking fund provided for the purchase or redemption of shares of the series;

Table of Contents

the amounts payable on shares of the series in the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the affairs of our Company, or upon any distribution of assets of our Company;

whether the shares of the series will be convertible into shares of any other class or series, or any other security, of our Company or any other corporation, and, if so, the specification of the other class or series or other security, the conversion price or prices or rate or rates, any rate adjustments, the date or dates as of which the shares will be convertible and all other terms and conditions upon which the conversion may be made;

the preferences and special rights, if any, of the series and the qualifications and restrictions, if any, of the series;

the voting rights, if any, of the holders of the series; and

such other rights, powers and preferences with respect to the series as our Board of Directors may deem advisable.

**Authorized but Unissued Capital Stock**

Delaware law does not require stockholder approval for any issuance of authorized shares. However, the listing requirements of the NYSE, which apply for so long as our Class A common stock is listed on the NYSE, require stockholder approval of certain issuances (other than a public offering) equal to or exceeding 20% of the then outstanding voting power or then outstanding number of shares of Class A common stock, as well as for certain issuances of stock in compensatory transactions. These additional shares may be used for a variety of corporate purposes, including future public offerings, to raise additional capital or to facilitate acquisitions. One of the effects of the existence of unissued and unreserved Class A common stock may be to enable our Board of Directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management, which issuance could render more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of our Company by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise, and thereby protect the continuity of our management and possibly deprive the stockholders of opportunities to sell their shares of Class A common stock at prices higher than prevailing market prices.

**Anti-Takeover Effects of Certain Provisions of Delaware Law and our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws**

Certain provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, which are summarized in the following paragraphs, may have an anti-takeover effect and may delay, defer or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a stockholder might consider in its best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders.

*Undesignated Preferred Stock*

The ability to authorize undesignated preferred stock makes it possible for our Board of Directors to issue preferred stock with super voting, special approval, dividend or other rights or preferences on a discriminatory basis that could impede the success of any attempt to acquire us or otherwise effect a change in control of us. These and other provisions may have the effect of deferring, delaying or discouraging hostile takeovers, or changes in control or management of our Company.

*No Cumulative Voting*

The Delaware General Corporation Law, or DGCL, provides that stockholders are not entitled to the right to cumulate votes in the election of directors unless our Certificate of Incorporation provides otherwise. Our Certificate of Incorporation prohibits cumulative voting.

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

#### *Calling of Special Meetings of Stockholders*

Our Bylaws provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called at any time only by the chief executive officer or the Board of Directors.

#### *Stockholder Action by Written Consent*

The DGCL permits stockholder action by written consent unless otherwise provided by our Certificate of Incorporation. Our Certificate of Incorporation precludes stockholder action by written consent.

#### *Advance Notice Requirements for Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations*

Our Bylaws establish advance notice procedures with respect to stockholder proposals and the nomination of candidates for election as directors. In order for any matter to be "properly brought" before a meeting, a stockholder will have to comply with advance notice requirements and provide us with certain information. Our Bylaws allow the presiding officer at a meeting of the stockholders to adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of meetings, which may have the effect of precluding the conduct of certain business at a meeting if the rules and regulations are not followed.

These provisions may defer, delay or discourage a potential acquirer from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect the acquirer's own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our Company.

#### *Removal of Directors; Vacancies*

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that directors may be removed with or without cause upon the affirmative vote of holders of at least a majority of the voting power of all the then outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors. In addition, our Bylaws provide that any newly-created directorship on the Board of Directors that results from an increase in the number of directors and any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors shall be filled only by a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director.

#### *Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute*

We are subject to Section 203 of the DGCL. Subject to specified exceptions, Section 203 prohibits a publicly-held 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. "Business combinations" include mergers, asset sales and other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the "interested stockholder." Subject to various exceptions, an "interested stockholder" is a person who together with his or her affiliates and associates, owns, or within three years did own, 15% or more of the corporation's outstanding voting stock. These restrictions generally prohibit or delay the accomplishment of mergers or other takeover or change in control attempts.

#### *Limitations on Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors*

The DGCL authorizes corporations to limit or eliminate the personal liability of directors to corporations and their stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of directors' fiduciary duties. Our Certificate of Incorporation includes a provision that eliminates the personal liability of directors for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except:

for breach of duty of loyalty;

Table of Contents

for acts or omissions not in good faith or involving intentional misconduct or knowing violation of law;

under Section 174 of the DGCL (unlawful dividends); or

for transactions from which the director derived improper personal benefit.

Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that we must indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent authorized by the DGCL. We are also expressly authorized to, and do, carry directors' and officers' insurance providing coverage for our directors, officers and certain employees for some liabilities. We believe that these indemnification provisions and insurance are useful to attract and retain qualified directors and executive officers.

The limitation of liability and indemnification provisions in our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws may discourage stockholders from bringing a lawsuit against directors for breach of their fiduciary duty. These provisions may also have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against directors and officers, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise benefit us and our stockholders. In addition, your investment may be adversely affected to the extent we pay the costs of settlement and damage awards against directors and officers pursuant to these indemnification provisions.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and officers providing for additional indemnification protection beyond that provided by the directors' and officers' liability insurance policy. In the indemnification agreements, we have agreed, subject to certain exceptions, to indemnify and hold harmless the director or officer to the maximum extent then authorized or permitted by the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation, the DGCL, or by any amendment(s) thereto.

There is currently no pending litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors, officers or employees for which indemnification is sought.

*REIT-related Restrictions on the Ownership of and Ability to Transfer our Class A Common Stock.*

Among other things, our charter provides that, subject to the exceptions and the constructive ownership rules described herein, no person may own, or be deemed to own, in excess of (i) 9.8% in value of the outstanding shares of all classes or series of our capital stock or (ii) 9.8% in value or number (whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of any class of our common stock.

In addition, the charter prohibits (i) any person from transferring shares of our capital stock if such transfer would result in shares of our capital stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons, and (ii) any person from beneficially or constructively owning shares of our capital stock if such ownership would result in us failing to qualify as a REIT.

These ownership limitations and transfer restrictions could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a takeover or other transaction in which stockholders might receive a premium for their shares of our capital stock over the then prevailing market price or which stockholders might believe to be otherwise in their best interest.

Certain existing stockholders that currently hold in excess of 9.8% of the value of the outstanding shares of any class or series of our capital stock are exempt from the ownership limitations in our charter.

**Corporate Opportunity**

Neither TowerBrook nor GI Partners has any obligation to offer us an opportunity to participate in business opportunities presented to TowerBrook or GI Partners even if the opportunity is one that we

Table of Contents

might reasonably have pursued, and neither TowerBrook nor GI Partners will be liable to us or our stockholders for breach of any duty by reason of any such activities unless, in the case of any person who is our director or officer, such business opportunity is expressly offered to such director or officer solely in his or her capacity as our officer or director. Stockholders will be deemed to have notice of and consented to this provision of our Certificate of Incorporation.

**Choice of Forum**

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that, unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware will be the exclusive forum for (a) any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf; (b) any action asserting a breach of fiduciary duty; (c) any action asserting a claim against us arising pursuant to the DGCL, our Certificate of Incorporation or our Bylaws; or (d) any action asserting a claim against us that is governed by the internal affairs doctrine. However, several lawsuits involving other companies are currently pending challenging the validity of choice of forum provisions in certificates of incorporation, and it is possible that a court could rule that such provision is inapplicable or unenforceable.

**Transfer Agent and Registrar**

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

**New York Stock Exchange Listing**

Our Class A common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol "LADR."

Table of Contents

**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants to purchase debt or equity securities. We may issue warrants independently or together with any other offered securities. The warrants may be attached to or separate from those offered securities. We will issue the warrants under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants that we may offer will contain the specific terms of the warrants. These terms may include the following:

the title of the warrants;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are to be issued and the number of warrants issued with each other security;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the aggregate number of warrants;

any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the exercise of the warrants;

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;

the maximum or minimum number of warrants that may be exercised at any time; and

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any.

**Exercise of Warrants**

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

Each warrant will entitle the holder of warrants to purchase for cash the amount of debt or equity securities, at the exercise price stated or determinable in the prospectus supplement for the warrants. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date shown in the applicable prospectus supplement, unless otherwise specified in such prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void. Warrants may be exercised as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. When the warrant holder makes the payment and properly completes and signs the warrant certificate at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as possible, forward the debt or equity securities that the warrant holder has purchased. If the warrant holder exercises the warrant for less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate, we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining warrants.

Table of Contents

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES AND GUARANTEES**

We may offer debt securities, which will be issued under an indenture entered into between us and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee and any guarantors party thereto and filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

We have summarized certain general features of the debt securities from the indenture. The following description of the terms of the debt securities sets forth certain general terms and provisions. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which such general provisions may apply to the debt securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of a particular issue of debt securities, reference must be made to both the related prospectus supplement and to the following description.

**General**

The aggregate principal amount of debt securities that may be issued under the indenture is unlimited. The debt securities may be issued in one or more series as may be authorized from time to time.

Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement for the following terms of the debt securities (if applicable):

title and aggregate principal amount;

whether the securities will be senior or subordinated;

applicable subordination provisions, if any;

conversion or exchange into other securities;

whether securities issued will be secured or unsecured, and if secured, what the collateral will consist of;

maturity date(s);

interest rate(s) or the method for determining the interest rate(s);

dates on which interest will accrue or the method for determining dates on which interest will accrue and dates on which interest will be payable;

redemption or early repayment provisions;

authorized denominations;

form;

amount of discount or premium, if any, with which such securities will be issued;



## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

whether such securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities;

identity of the depositary for global securities;

whether a temporary security is to be issued with respect to such series and whether any interest payable prior to the issuance of definitive securities of the series will be credited to the account of the persons entitled thereto;

the terms upon which beneficial interests in a temporary global security may be exchanged in whole or in part for beneficial interests in a definitive global security or for individual definitive securities;

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

any covenants applicable to the particular debt securities being issued;

any defaults and events of default applicable to the particular debt securities being issued;

currency, currencies or currency units in which the purchase price for, the principal of and any premium and any interest on, such securities will be payable;

time period within which, the manner in which and the terms and conditions upon which the purchaser of the securities can select the payment currency;

securities exchange(s) on which the securities will be listed, if any;

whether any underwriter(s) will act as market maker(s) for the securities;

extent to which a secondary market for the securities is expected to develop;

additions to or changes in the events of default with respect to the securities and any change in the right of the trustee or the holders to declare the principal, premium and interest with respect to such securities to be due and payable;

provisions relating to covenant defeasance and legal defeasance;

provisions relating to satisfaction and discharge of the indenture;

provisions relating to the modification of the indenture both with and without the consent of holders of debt securities issued under the indenture;

the guarantors of each series, if any, and the extent of the guarantees (including provisions relating to seniority, subordination, security and release of the guarantees), if any;

any restriction or condition on the transferability of the securities;

any addition or change in the provisions related to compensation and reimbursement of the trustee;

provisions, if any, granting special rights to holders of the securities upon the occurrence of specified events; and

additional terms not inconsistent with the provisions of the indenture.

One or more series of 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. One or more series of debt securities may be variable rate debt securities that may be exchanged for fixed rate debt securities.

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

U.S. federal income tax consequences and special considerations, if any, applicable to any such series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Debt securities may be issued where the amount of principal and/or interest payable is determined by reference to one or more currency exchange rates, commodity prices, equity indices or other factors. Holders of such securities may receive a principal amount or a payment of interest that is greater than or less than the amount of principal or interest otherwise payable on such dates, depending upon the value of the applicable currencies, commodities, equity indices or other factors. Information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest, if any, payable on any date, the currencies, commodities, equity indices or other factors to which the amount payable on such date is linked and certain additional U.S. federal income tax considerations will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We expect most debt securities to be issued in fully registered form without coupons and in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. Subject to the

Table of Contents

limitations provided in the indenture and in the prospectus supplement, debt securities that are issued in registered form may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the trustee or the principal corporate trust office of the trustee, without the payment of any service charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

**Global Securities**

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the prospectus supplement. Global securities will be issued in registered form and in either temporary or definitive form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for the individual debt securities, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository for such global security to a nominee of such depository or by a nominee of such depository to such depository or another nominee of such depository or by such depository or any such nominee to a successor of such depository or a nominee of such successor. The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any debt securities of a series and the rights of and limitations upon owners of beneficial interests in a global security will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**Governing Law**

The indenture and the debt securities shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

**U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the stock and debt securities of Ladder. This summary does not discuss the consequences of an investment in shares of our preferred stock, warrants to purchase shares of our Class A common stock or preferred stock, or guarantees of debt securities. The tax consequences of such an investment will be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement. For purposes of this section under the heading "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations," references to "Ladder," "we," "our" and "us" generally mean only Ladder and not its subsidiaries or other lower tier entities, except as otherwise indicated. This summary is based upon the Code, the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (the "Treasury"), rulings and other administrative pronouncements issued by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect, and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. We have not sought and do not intend to seek an advance ruling from the IRS regarding our ability to qualify as a REIT. The summary is also based upon the assumption that we and our subsidiaries and affiliated entities will operate in accordance with our and their applicable organizational documents. This summary is for general information only and is not tax advice. It does not discuss any state, local, or non-U.S. tax consequences relevant to us or an investment in our Class A common stock or debt securities, and it does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular investor in light of its investment or tax circumstances or to investors subject to special tax rules, such as:

financial institutions;

insurance companies;

broker-dealers;

regulated investment companies;

partnerships and trusts;

persons who hold our stock on behalf of other persons as nominees;

persons who receive our stock through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;

persons holding our stock as part of a "straddle," "hedge," "conversion transaction," "synthetic security" or other integrated investment;

and, except to the extent discussed below:

tax-exempt organizations; and

foreign investors.

This summary assumes that investors will hold our Class A common stock or debt securities as a capital asset, which generally means as property held for investment.

**The U.S. federal income tax treatment of holders of our stock and debt securities depends in some instances on determinations of fact and interpretations of complex provisions of U.S. federal income tax law for which no clear precedent or authority may be available. In addition, the tax consequences to any particular stockholder of holding our Class A common stock or debt securities will**

depend on the stockholder's particular tax circumstances. You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal, state, local, and foreign income and other tax consequences to you in light of your

Table of Contents

**particular investment or tax circumstances of acquiring, holding, exchanging, or otherwise disposing of our Class A common stock or debt securities.**

**Taxation of Ladder Capital Corp**

We are subject to tax as a REIT commencing with our taxable year ending December 31, 2015. We believe that, commencing with such taxable year, we are organized and operate in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the applicable provisions of the Code. We intend to continue to operate in such a manner to continue to qualify for taxation as a REIT.

The law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has acted as our tax counsel in connection with our election to be taxed as a REIT. We have received an opinion of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP to the effect that, commencing with our taxable year ending December 31, 2015, we are organized in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code, and that our actual method of operation enables us to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT. It must be emphasized that the opinion of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP is based on various assumptions relating to our organization and operation, and is conditioned upon fact-based representations and covenants made by our management regarding our organization, assets, and income, and the present and future conduct of our business operations. While we intend to operate so that we will qualify as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations, and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, no assurance can be given by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP or by us that we will qualify as a REIT for any particular year. The opinion was expressed as of the date issued. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has no obligation to advise us or our stockholders of any subsequent change in the matters stated, represented or assumed, or of any subsequent change in the applicable law. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the IRS, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge the conclusions set forth in such opinions.

Our qualification and taxation as a REIT depends on our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual operating results, distribution levels, and diversity of stock and asset ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code, the compliance with which will not be reviewed by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Our ability to qualify as a REIT also requires that we satisfy certain asset tests, some of which depend upon the fair market values of assets that we own directly or indirectly. Such values may not be susceptible to a precise determination. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of our operations for any taxable year will satisfy such requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT.

***Taxation of REITs in general***

As indicated above, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code. The material qualification requirements are summarized below under " Requirements for qualification General." While we intend to operate so that we qualify as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our qualification, or that we will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future. See " Failure to qualify."

Provided that we qualify as a REIT, we will be entitled to a deduction for dividends that we pay and therefore will not be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax on our taxable income that is currently distributed to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the "double taxation" at the corporate and stockholder levels that generally results from investment in a corporation. In general, the income that we generate is taxed only at the stockholder level upon a distribution of dividends to our stockholders.

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

Currently, most U.S. stockholders that are individuals, trusts or estates are taxed on corporate dividends at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20%. With limited exceptions, however, dividends from us or from other entities that are taxed as REITs are generally not eligible for this rate and will continue to be taxed at rates applicable to ordinary income. Under current law, the highest marginal non-corporate U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income is 39.6%. See " Taxation of stockholders Taxation of taxable U.S. Holders Distributions."

Any net operating losses, foreign tax credits and other tax attributes generally do not pass through to our stockholders, subject to special rules for certain items such as the capital gains that we recognize. See " Taxation of stockholders Taxation of taxable U.S. Holders Distributions."

Provided we qualify as a REIT, we will nonetheless be subject to U.S. federal tax in the following circumstances:

We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed net taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains.

We may be subject to the "alternative minimum tax" on our items of tax preference, including any deductions of net operating losses.

If we have net income from prohibited transactions, which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of inventory or property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, other than foreclosure property, such income will be subject to a 100% tax. See " Prohibited transactions," and " Foreclosure property," below.

If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or certain leasehold terminations as "foreclosure property," we may thereby avoid the 100% tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction), but the income from the sale or operation of the property may be subject to corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%).

If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below, but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because we satisfy other requirements, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount based on the magnitude of the failure, as adjusted to reflect the profit margin associated with our gross income.

If we violate the asset tests (other than certain *de minimis* violations) or other requirements applicable to REITs, as described below, and yet maintain our qualification as a REIT because there is reasonable cause for the failure and other applicable requirements are met, we may be subject to a penalty tax. In that case, the amount of the penalty tax will be at least \$50,000 per failure, and, in the case of certain asset test failures, will be determined as the amount of net income generated by the assets in question multiplied by the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%) if that amount exceeds \$50,000 per failure.

If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of: (i) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year; (ii) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year; and (iii) any undistributed net taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of: (a) the amounts that we actually distributed and (b) the amounts we retained and upon which we paid income tax at the corporate level.

We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet record-keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of a REIT's stockholders, as described below in " Requirements for qualification General."



## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

A 100% tax may be imposed on transactions between us and a TRS that do not reflect arm's-length terms.

If we sell any of our existing appreciated assets or if we acquire appreciated assets from a corporation that is not a REIT (i.e., a corporation taxable under subchapter C of the Code) in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the subchapter C corporation, we may be subject to tax on such appreciation at the highest corporate income tax rate then applicable if we subsequently recognize gain on a disposition of any such assets during the ten-year period following their acquisition from the subchapter C corporation.

The earnings of our TRSs will be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax to the extent that such subsidiaries are subchapter C corporations.

In addition, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes, including payroll taxes and state, local, and foreign income, property and other taxes on our assets and operations. We could also be subject to tax in situations and on transactions not presently contemplated.

### ***Requirements for qualification General***

The Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

1. that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
2. the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
3. that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for its election to be subject to tax as a REIT;
4. that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Code;
5. the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;
6. in which, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer "individuals" (as defined in the Code to include specified tax-exempt entities); and
7. that meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets.

The Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year, and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Conditions (5) and (6) need not be met during a corporation's initial tax year as a REIT (which, in our case, will be 2015). The Charter Amendment provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfers of our stock, which are intended to assist us in satisfying the stock ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above.

To monitor compliance with the stock ownership requirements, we generally are required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our stock. To do so, we must demand written statements each year from the record holders of significant percentages of our stock pursuant to which the record holders must disclose the actual owners of the stock (i.e., the persons required to include our dividends in their gross income). We must maintain a list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand as part of our records. We could be subject to monetary penalties if we fail to comply with these record-keeping requirements. If you fail or refuse to comply with the demands, you



Table of Contents

will be required by Treasury regulations to submit a statement with your tax return disclosing your actual ownership of our stock and other information.

In addition, a corporation generally may not elect to become a REIT unless its taxable year is the calendar year. We adopted December 31 as our year-end, and thereby satisfy this requirement.

***Effect of subsidiary entities***

***Ownership of partnership interests.*** We are a partner in entities that are treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes (e.g., directly in our Series REIT operating partnership and indirectly through our TRS in our Series TRS operating partnership). Treasury regulations provide that we are deemed to own our proportionate share of our Series REIT operating partnership's assets, and to earn our proportionate share of such partnership's income, for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs. Our proportionate share of our Series REIT operating partnership's assets and income is based on our capital interest in the partnership (except that for purposes of the 10% value test, described below, our proportionate share of the partnership's assets is based on our proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by the partnership). In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership are deemed to retain the same character in our hands. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of any of our subsidiary partnerships generally will be treated as our assets and items of income for purposes of applying the REIT requirements.

We generally have control of our operating partnerships and the subsidiary partnerships and limited liability companies and intend to operate them in a manner consistent with the requirements for our qualification as a REIT. If we become a limited partner or non-managing member in any partnership or limited liability company and such entity takes or expects to take actions that could jeopardize our status as a REIT or require us to pay tax, we may be forced to dispose of our interest in such entity. In addition, it is possible that a partnership or limited liability company could take an action which could cause us to fail a gross income or asset test, and that we would not become aware of such action in time to dispose of our interest in the partnership or limited liability company or take other corrective action on a timely basis. In that case, we could fail to qualify as a REIT unless we were entitled to relief, as described below.

***Disregarded subsidiaries.*** If we own a corporate subsidiary that is a "qualified REIT subsidiary," that subsidiary is generally disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and all of the subsidiary's assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit are treated as our assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a TRS (as described below), that is directly or indirectly wholly-owned by a REIT. Other entities that are wholly-owned by us, including single member limited liability companies that have not elected to be taxed as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes, are also generally disregarded as separate entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with any partnerships in which we hold an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as "pass-through subsidiaries."

In the event that a disregarded subsidiary of ours ceases to be wholly-owned for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than us or another disregarded subsidiary of ours the subsidiary's separate existence would no longer be disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Instead, the subsidiary would have multiple owners and would be treated as either a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect our ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income requirements applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the securities of another corporation. See " Asset tests" and " Income tests."

Table of Contents

*Taxable subsidiaries.* In general, we may jointly elect with a subsidiary corporation, whether or not wholly-owned, to treat such subsidiary corporation as a TRS. We generally may not own more than 10% of the securities of a taxable corporation, as measured by voting power or value, unless we and such corporation elect to treat such corporation as a TRS. The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation is not ignored for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, a TRS or other taxable subsidiary corporation generally is subject to corporate income tax on its earnings, which may reduce the cash flow that we and our subsidiaries generate in the aggregate, and may reduce our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

We are not treated as holding the assets of a TRS or other taxable subsidiary corporation or as receiving any income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by a taxable subsidiary to us is an asset in our hands, and we treat the dividends paid to us from such taxable subsidiary, if any, as income. This treatment can affect our income and asset test calculations, as described below. Because we do not include the assets and income of TRSs or other taxable subsidiary corporations on a look-through basis in determining our compliance with the REIT requirements, we may use such entities to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude us from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. For example, we may use TRSs or other taxable subsidiary corporations to perform services or conduct activities that give rise to certain categories of income such as management fees or to conduct activities that, if conducted by us directly, would be treated in our hands as prohibited transactions.

The TRS rules limit the deductibility of interest paid or accrued by a TRS to its parent REIT to assure that the TRS is subject to an appropriate level of corporate taxation. Further, the rules impose a 100% excise tax on transactions between a TRS and its parent REIT or the REIT's tenants that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis. We intend that all of our transactions with our TRSs, if any, will be conducted on an arm's-length basis.

*Income tests*

To qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy two gross income requirements on an annual basis. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year, excluding gross income from sales of inventory or dealer property in "prohibited transactions," discharge of indebtedness and certain hedging transactions, generally must be derived from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including interest income derived from mortgage loans secured by real property (including certain types of mortgage-backed securities), "rents from real property," dividends received from other REITs, and gains from the sale of real estate assets, as well as specified income from temporary investments. Second, at least 95% of our gross income in each taxable year, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, discharge of indebtedness and certain hedging transactions, must be derived from some combination of income that qualifies under the 75% gross income test described above, as well as other dividends, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, which need not have any relation to real property. Income and gain from certain hedging transactions will be excluded from both the numerator and the denominator for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

*Interest income.* Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test (as described above) to the extent that the obligation upon which such interest is paid is secured by a mortgage on real property. If we receive interest income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property, and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date that we acquired or originated the mortgage loan, the interest income will be apportioned between the real property and the other collateral, and our income from the arrangement will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. Even if a loan is not secured by real property, or is undersecured, the income that it generates may nonetheless qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test.

Table of Contents

We may invest in Agency and non-Agency mortgage-backed securities that are either mortgage pass-through certificates or CMOs. We expect that such mortgage-backed securities will be treated either as interests in a grantor trust or as interests in a real estate mortgage investment conduit, or REMIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the case of mortgage-backed securities treated as interests in grantor trusts, we would be treated as owning an undivided beneficial ownership interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. The interest on such mortgage loans would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test to the extent that the obligation is secured by real property, as discussed above. In the case of mortgage-backed securities treated as interests in a REMIC, income derived from REMIC interests will generally be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income tests. If less than 95% of the assets of the REMIC are real estate assets, however, then only a proportionate part of our interest in the REMIC and income derived from the interest will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test. In addition, some REMIC securitizations include imbedded interest swap or cap contracts or other derivative instruments that potentially could produce non-qualifying income for the holder of the related REMIC securities. We expect that substantially all of our income from mortgage-backed securities will be qualifying income for purposes of the REIT gross income tests.

*Dividend income.* We may directly or indirectly receive distributions from TRSs or other corporations that are not REITs or qualified REIT subsidiaries. These distributions generally are treated as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions will generally constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any dividends that we receive from a REIT, however, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income tests.

*REMIC interest apportionment.* The interest apportionment tax rules provide that, if a mortgage is secured by both real property and other property, the REIT is required to apportion its annual interest income between the portion attributable to a mortgage on the real property and the portion attributable to other property (which is not treated as mortgage interest). The interest apportionment tax regulations apply only if the mortgage loan in question is secured by both real property and other property. We expect that all or most of the mortgage loans that we acquire will be secured only by real property and no other property value is taken into account in our underwriting process.

In addition, the Code provides that a regular or a residual interest in a REMIC is generally treated as a real estate asset for the purpose of the REIT asset tests, and any amount includible in our gross income with respect to such an interest is generally treated as interest on an obligation secured by a mortgage on real property for the purpose of the REIT gross income tests. If, however, less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC in which we hold an interest consist of real estate assets (determined as if we held such assets), we will be treated as receiving directly our proportionate share of the income of the REMIC for the purpose of determining the amount of income from the REMIC that is treated as interest on an obligation secured by a mortgage on real property. In connection with the expanded HARP program, the IRS issued guidance providing that, among other things, if a REIT holds a regular interest in an "eligible REMIC," or a residual interest in an "eligible REMIC" that informs the REIT that at least 80% of the REMIC's assets constitute real estate assets, then the REIT may treat 80% of the gross income received with respect to the interest in the REMIC as interest on an obligation secured by a mortgage on real property for the purpose of the 75% gross income test. For this purpose, a REMIC is an "eligible REMIC" if: (i) the REMIC has received a guarantee from the FNMA or the FHLMC that will allow the REMIC to make any principal and interest payments on its regular and residual interests; and (ii) all of the REMIC's mortgages and pass-through certificates are secured by interests in single-family dwellings. If we were to acquire an interest in an eligible REMIC less than 95% of the assets of which constitute real estate assets, the IRS guidance described above may generally allow us to treat 80% of the gross income derived from the interest as qualifying income for the purposes of 75% REIT gross income test. Although the portion of the income from such a REMIC

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

interest that does not qualify would likely be qualifying income for the purpose of the 95% REIT gross income test, the remaining 20% of the REMIC interest generally would not qualify as a real estate asset, which could adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT asset tests.

*Fee income.* Fees will generally be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests if they are received in consideration for entering into an agreement to make a loan secured by real property and the fees are not determined by income and profits. Other fees generally will not be qualifying income for purposes of either gross income test. Any fees earned by a TRS will not be included for purposes of the gross income tests.

*Hedging transactions.* Any income or gain that we or our pass-through subsidiaries derive from instruments that hedge certain risks, such as the risk of changes in interest rates, will be excluded from gross income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, provided that specified requirements are met, including the requirement that the instrument is entered into during the ordinary course of our business, the instrument hedges risks associated with indebtedness issued by us or our pass-through subsidiary that is incurred to acquire or carry "real estate assets" (as described below under "Asset tests"), and the instrument is properly identified as a hedge along with the risk that it hedges within prescribed time periods. Income and gain from all other hedging transactions will not be qualifying income for either the 95% or 75% gross income test.

*Failure to satisfy the gross income tests.* If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may still qualify as a REIT for such year if we are entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Code. These relief provisions will be generally available if: (i) our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect; and (ii) following our identification of the failure to meet the 75% or 95% gross income test for any taxable year, we file a schedule with the IRS setting forth each item of our gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test for such taxable year in accordance with Treasury regulations yet to be issued. It is not possible to state whether we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions in all circumstances. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances, we will not qualify as a REIT. Even where these relief provisions apply, the Code imposes a tax based upon the amount by which we fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

*Timing differences between receipt of cash and recognition of income.* Due to the nature of the assets in which we will invest, we may be required to recognize taxable income from those assets in advance of our receipt of cash flow on or proceeds from disposition of such assets, and may be required to report taxable income in early periods that exceeds the economic income ultimately realized on such assets.

We may acquire mortgage-backed securities in the secondary market for less than their face amount. In addition, pursuant to our ownership of certain mortgage-backed securities, we may be treated as holding certain debt instruments acquired in the secondary market for less than their face amount. The discount at which such securities or debt instruments are acquired may reflect doubts about their ultimate collectability rather than current market interest rates. The amount of such discount may nevertheless generally be treated as "market discount" for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accrued market discount is generally recognized as income when, and to the extent that, any payment of principal on the mortgage-backed security or debt instrument is made. If we collect less on the mortgage-backed security or debt instrument than our purchase price plus the market discount we had previously reported as income, we may not be able to benefit from any offsetting loss deductions.

Moreover, some of the mortgage-backed securities that we acquire may have been issued with original issue discount. In general, we will be required to accrue original issue discount based on the constant yield to maturity of the securities, and to treat it as taxable income in accordance with applicable U.S. federal income tax rules even though smaller or no cash payments are received on such securities. As in the case of the market discount discussed in the preceding paragraph, the constant

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

yield in question will be determined and we will be taxed based on the assumption that all future payments due on the mortgage-backed securities in question will be made, with consequences similar to those described in the previous paragraph if all payments on the securities are not made.

In addition, pursuant to our ownership of certain mortgage-backed securities, we may be treated as holding distressed debt investments that are subsequently modified by agreement with the borrower. If the amendments to the outstanding debt are "significant modifications" under the applicable Treasury regulations, the modified debt may be considered to have been reissued to us in a debt-for-debt exchange with the borrower. In that event, we may be required to recognize taxable gain to the extent the principal amount of the modified debt exceeds our adjusted tax basis in the unmodified debt, even if the value of the debt or the payment expectations have not changed. Following such a taxable modification, we would hold the modified loan with a cost basis equal to its principal amount for U.S. federal tax purposes. To the extent that such modifications are made with respect to a debt instrument held by a TRS that is treated as a dealer or trader and that makes an election to use mark-to-market accounting, such TRS would be required at the end of each taxable year, including the taxable year in which any such modification were made, to mark the modified debt instrument to its fair market value as if the debt instrument were sold. In that case, the TRS could recognize a loss at the end of the taxable year in which the modifications were made to the extent that the fair market value of such debt instrument at such time was less than the instrument's tax basis.

In addition, in the event mortgage-backed securities, or any debt instruments we are treated as holding pursuant to our investments in mortgage-backed securities, are delinquent as to mandatory principal and interest payments, we may nonetheless be required to continue to recognize the unpaid interest as taxable income as it accrues, despite doubt as to its ultimate collectability. Similarly, we may be required to accrue interest income with respect to subordinate mortgage-backed securities at the stated rate regardless of whether corresponding cash payments are received.

Finally, we may be required under the terms of indebtedness that we incur to use cash received from interest payments to make principal payments on that indebtedness, with the effect of recognizing income but not having a corresponding amount of cash available for distribution to our stockholders.

Due to each of these potential timing differences between income recognition or expense deduction and cash receipts or disbursements, there is a significant risk that we may have substantial taxable income in excess of cash available for distribution. In that event, we may need to borrow funds or take other action to satisfy the REIT distribution requirements for the taxable year in which this "phantom income" is recognized. See " Annual distribution requirements."

### *Asset tests*

At the close of each calendar quarter, we must also satisfy four tests relating to the nature of our assets. First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of "real estate assets," cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include some kinds of mortgage-backed securities and mortgage loans, as well as interests in real property and stock of other corporations that qualify as REITs. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% asset test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

Second, the value of any one issuer's securities that we own may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets.

Third, we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. The 5% and 10% asset tests do not apply to securities of TRSs and qualified REIT subsidiaries and the 10% asset test does not apply to "straight debt" having specified characteristics and to certain other securities described below. Solely for purposes of the 10% asset test, the determination of our interest in the assets of a partnership or limited liability company in which we

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

own an interest will be based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership or limited liability company, excluding for this purpose certain securities described in the Code.

Fourth, the aggregate value of all securities of TRSs that we hold, together with other non-qualified assets (such as furniture and equipment or other tangible personal property, or non-real estate securities) may not, in the aggregate, exceed 25% of the value of our total assets.

Notwithstanding the general rule, as noted above, that for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests we are treated as owning our proportionate share of the underlying assets of a subsidiary partnership, if we hold indebtedness issued by a partnership, the indebtedness will be subject to, and may cause a violation of, the asset tests unless the indebtedness is a qualifying mortgage asset or other conditions are met. Similarly, although stock of another REIT is a qualifying asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, any non-mortgage debt that is issued by another REIT may not so qualify (such debt, however, will not be treated as "securities" for purposes of the 10% asset test, as explained below).

Certain securities will not cause a violation of the 10% asset test described above. Such securities include instruments that constitute "straight debt," which term generally excludes, among other things, securities having contingency features. A security does not qualify as "straight debt" where a REIT (or a controlled TRS of the REIT) owns other securities of the same issuer which do not qualify as straight debt, unless the value of those other securities constitute, in the aggregate, 1% or less of the total value of that issuer's outstanding securities. In addition to straight debt, the Code provides that certain other securities will not violate the 10% asset test. Such securities include: (i) any loan made to an individual or an estate; (ii) certain rental agreements pursuant to which one or more payments are to be made in subsequent years (other than agreements between a REIT and certain persons related to the REIT under attribution rules); (iii) any obligation to pay rents from real property; (iv) securities issued by governmental entities that are not dependent in whole or in part on the profits of (or payments made by) a non-governmental entity; (v) any security (including debt securities) issued by another REIT; and (vi) any debt instrument issued by a partnership if the partnership's income is of a nature that it would satisfy the 75% gross income test described above under "Income tests." In applying the 10% asset test, a debt security issued by a partnership is not taken into account to the extent, if any, of the REIT's proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by that partnership.

We invest in Agency and non-Agency mortgage-backed securities that are either mortgage pass-through certificates or CMOs. We expect that these securities will be treated either as interests in grantor trusts or as interests in REMICs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the case of mortgage-backed securities treated as interests in grantor trusts, we would be treated as owning an undivided beneficial ownership interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. Such mortgage loans will generally qualify as real estate assets to the extent that they are secured by real property. We expect that substantially all of our mortgage-backed securities treated as interests in grantor trusts will qualify as real estate assets.

In the case of mortgage-backed securities treated as interests in a REMIC, such interests will generally qualify as real estate assets. If less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC are real estate assets, however, then only a proportionate part of our interest in the REMIC and income derived from the interest will qualify for purposes of the REIT asset tests. In connection with the expanded HARP program, the IRS issued guidance providing that, among other things, if a REIT holds a regular interest in an "eligible REMIC," or a residual interest in an "eligible REMIC" that informs the REIT that at least 80% of the REMIC's assets constitute real estate assets, then the REIT may treat 80% of the value of the interest in the REMIC as a real estate asset for the purpose of the REIT asset tests. For this purpose, a REMIC is an "eligible REMIC" if: (i) the REMIC has received a guarantee from the FNMA or the FHLMC that will allow the REMIC to make any principal and interest payments on its regular and residual interests; and (ii) all of the REMIC's mortgages and pass-through certificates are secured by interests in single-family dwellings. If we were to acquire an interest in an eligible REMIC less than 95% of the assets of which constitute real estate assets, the IRS guidance described



Table of Contents

above may generally allow us to treat 80% of our interest in such a REMIC as a qualifying real estate asset for the purpose of the REIT asset tests. The remaining 20% of the REMIC interest generally would not qualify as a real estate asset, which could adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT asset tests.

If we hold a "residual interest" in a REMIC from which we derive "excess inclusion income," we will be required to either distribute the excess inclusion income or pay tax on it (or a combination of the two), even though we may not receive the income in cash. To the extent that distributed excess inclusion income is allocable to a particular stockholder, the income: (i) would not be allowed to be offset by any net operating losses otherwise available to the stockholder; (ii) would be subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income in the hands of most types of stockholders that are otherwise generally exempt from U.S. federal income tax; and (iii) would result in the application of U.S. federal income tax withholding at the maximum rate (30%), without reduction pursuant to any otherwise applicable income tax treaty or other exemption, to the extent allocable to most types of foreign stockholders. Moreover, any excess inclusion income that we receive that is allocable to specified categories of tax-exempt investors which are not subject to unrelated business income tax, such as government entities or charitable remainder trusts, may be subject to corporate-level income tax in our hands, whether or not it is distributed.

We enter into sale and repurchase agreements under which we nominally sell certain of our mortgage-backed securities to a counterparty and simultaneously enter into an agreement to repurchase the sold assets in exchange for a purchase price that reflects a financing charge. Economically, these agreements are financings, which are secured by the securities "sold" pursuant thereto. We believe that we will be treated for REIT asset and income test purposes as the owner of the securities that are the subject of any such agreement notwithstanding that such agreements may transfer record ownership of the assets to the counterparty during the term of the agreement. It is possible, however, that the IRS could assert that we did not own the mortgage-backed securities during the term of the sale and repurchase agreement, in which case we could fail to qualify as a REIT.

No independent appraisals have been obtained to support our conclusions as to the value of our total assets or the value of any particular security or securities. Moreover, values of some assets, including instruments issued in securitization transactions, may not be susceptible to a precise determination, and values are subject to change in the future. Furthermore, the proper classification of an instrument as debt or equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be uncertain in some circumstances, which could affect the application of the REIT asset requirements. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that our interests in our subsidiaries or in the securities of other issuers will not cause a violation of the REIT asset tests.

However, certain relief provisions are available to allow REITs to satisfy the asset requirements or to maintain REIT qualification notwithstanding certain violations of the asset and other requirements. One such provision allows a REIT which fails one or more of the asset requirements to nevertheless maintain its REIT qualification if: (i) the REIT provides the IRS with a description of each asset causing the failure; (ii) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect; (iii) the REIT pays a tax equal to the greater of (a) \$50,000 per failure, and (b) the product of the net income generated by the assets that caused the failure multiplied by the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%); and (iv) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within six months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or otherwise satisfies the relevant asset tests within that time frame.

In the case of *de minimis* violations of the 10% and 5% asset tests, a REIT may maintain its qualification despite a violation of such requirements if: (i) the value of the assets causing the violation does not exceed the lesser of 1% of the REIT's total assets and \$10,000,000; and (ii) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within six months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or the relevant tests are otherwise satisfied within that time frame.

Table of Contents

If we should fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, such a failure would not cause us to lose our REIT qualification if we: (i) satisfied the asset tests at the close of the preceding calendar quarter; and (ii) the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset requirements was not wholly or partly caused by an acquisition of non-qualifying assets, but instead arose from changes in the market value of our assets. If the condition described in (ii) were not satisfied, we still could avoid disqualification by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose or by making use of relief provisions described below.

*Annual distribution requirements*

In order to qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to our stockholders in an amount at least equal to:

- (a) the sum of
  - (i) 90% of our net taxable income, computed without regard to our net capital gains and the deduction for dividends paid, and
  - (ii) 90% of our net income, if any, (after tax) from foreclosure property (as described below), minus
- (b) the sum of specified items of non-cash income.

We generally must make these distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before we timely file our tax return for the year and if paid with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration. In order for distributions to be counted as satisfying the annual distribution requirements for REITs, and to provide us with a REIT-level tax deduction, the distributions must not be "preferential dividends." A dividend is not a preferential dividend if the distribution is: (i) pro rata among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class and (ii) in accordance with the preferences among different classes of stock as set forth in our organizational documents.

To the extent that we distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our net taxable income, as adjusted, we will be subject to tax at ordinary corporate tax rates on the retained portion. We may elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net long-term capital gains and pay tax on such gains. In this case, we could elect for our stockholders to include their proportionate shares of such undistributed long-term capital gains in income, and to receive a corresponding credit for their share of the tax that we paid. Our stockholders would then increase their adjusted basis of their stock by the difference between: (a) the amounts of capital gain dividends that we designated and that they include in their taxable income, minus (b) the tax that we paid on their behalf with respect to that income.

To the extent that in the future we may have available net operating losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, will generally not affect the character, in the hands of our stockholders, of any distributions that are actually made as ordinary dividends or capital gains. See "Taxation of stockholders Taxation of taxable U.S. Holders Distributions."

If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of: (i) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year; (ii) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year; and (iii) any undistributed net taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the sum of: (a) the amounts actually distributed, plus (b) the amounts of income we retained and on which we have paid corporate income tax.

### Table of Contents

As discussed above under "Income tests: Timing differences between receipt of cash and recognition of income," it is possible that, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash to meet the distribution requirements due to timing differences between our actual receipt of cash and our inclusion of items in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the distribution requirements, it might be necessary for us to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings, or to pay dividends in the form of taxable in-kind distributions of property. Alternatively, we may declare a taxable dividend payable in cash or stock at the election of each stockholder, where the aggregate amount of cash to be distributed in such dividend may be subject to limitation. In such case, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, taxable stockholders receiving such dividends will be required to include the full amount of the dividend as ordinary income to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits.

We may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements for a year by paying "deficiency dividends" to stockholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. In this case, we may be able to avoid losing REIT qualification or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, subject to the 4% excise tax described above. We will be required to pay interest based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

### ***Prohibited transactions***

Net income that we derive from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% tax. The term "prohibited transaction" generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property, as discussed below) that is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business by us or by a borrower that has issued a shared appreciation mortgage or similar debt instrument to us. We intend to conduct our operations so that no asset that we own (or are treated as owning) will be treated as, or as having been, held as inventory or for sale to customers, and that a sale of any such asset will not be treated as having been in the ordinary course of our business. Whether property is held as inventory or "primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business" depends on the particular facts and circumstances. No assurance can be given that any property that we sell will not be treated as inventory or property held for sale to customers, or that we can comply with certain safe-harbor provisions of the Code that would prevent such treatment. The 100% tax does not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will be subject to tax in the hands of the corporation at regular corporate rates. We intend to structure our activities to avoid prohibited transaction characterization.

### ***Foreclosure property***

Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property: (i) that we acquire as the result of having bid in the property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after a default (or upon imminent default) on a lease of the property or a mortgage loan held by us and secured by the property; (ii) for which we acquired the related loan or lease at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated; and (iii) with respect to which we made a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. We generally will be subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate (currently 35%) on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property, other than income that would otherwise be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure property election has been made will not be subject to the 100% tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute inventory or dealer property. Because we will invest primarily in mortgage-backed securities, we do not anticipate receiving any income from foreclosure property that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test.

Table of Contents

*Derivatives and hedging transactions*

We may enter into hedging transactions with respect to interest rate exposure on one or more of our assets or liabilities. Any such hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including the use of derivative instruments such as interest rate swap contracts, interest rate cap or floor contracts, futures or forward contracts, and options. Except to the extent provided by Treasury regulations, any income from a hedging transaction we enter into: (i) in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, which is clearly identified as specified in Treasury regulations before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction; and (ii) primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% income tests which is clearly identified as such before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test. To the extent that we enter into other types of hedging transactions, the income from those transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that will not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT. We may conduct some or all of our hedging activities (including hedging activities relating to currency risk) through a TRS or other corporate entity, the income from which may be subject to U.S. federal income tax, rather than by participating in the arrangements directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. No assurance can be given, however, that our hedging activities will not give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of either or both of the REIT gross income tests, or that our hedging activities will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

*Taxable mortgage pools and excess inclusion income*

An entity, or a portion of an entity, may be classified as a taxable mortgage pool, or TMP, under the Code if:

substantially all of its assets consist of debt obligations or interests in debt obligations,

more than 50% of those debt obligations are real estate mortgages or interests in real estate mortgages as of specified testing dates,

the entity has issued debt obligations (liabilities) that have two or more maturities, and

the payments required to be made by the entity on its debt obligations (liabilities) "bear a relationship" to the payments to be received by the entity on the debt obligations that it holds as assets.

Under regulations issued by the Treasury, if less than 80% of the assets of an entity (or a portion of an entity) consist of debt obligations, these debt obligations are considered not to comprise "substantially all" of its assets, and therefore the entity would not be treated as a TMP. Our financing and securitization arrangements may give rise to TMPs, with the consequences as described below.

Where an entity, or a portion of an entity, is classified as a TMP, it is generally treated as a taxable corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the case of a REIT, or a portion of a REIT, or a disregarded subsidiary of a REIT, that is a TMP, however, special rules apply. The TMP is not treated as a corporation that is subject to corporate income tax, and the TMP classification does not adversely affect the qualification of the REIT. Rather, the consequences of the TMP classification would, in general, except as described below, be limited to the stockholders of the REIT.

Table of Contents

A portion of the REIT's income from the TMP arrangement could be treated as "excess inclusion income." The REIT's excess inclusion income, including any excess inclusion income from a residual interest in a REMIC, must be allocated among its stockholders in proportion to dividends paid. The REIT is required to notify stockholders of the amount of "excess inclusion income" allocated to them. A stockholder's share of excess inclusion income:

cannot be offset by any net operating losses otherwise available to the stockholder,

is subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income in the hands of most types of stockholders that are otherwise generally exempt from U.S. federal income tax, and

results in the application of U.S. federal income tax withholding at the maximum rate (30%), without reduction for any otherwise applicable income tax treaty or other exemption, to the extent allocable to most types of foreign stockholders.

See " Taxation of stockholders." To the extent that excess inclusion income is allocated to a tax-exempt stockholder of a REIT that is not subject to unrelated business income tax (such as a government entity or charitable remainder trust), the REIT may be subject to tax on this income at the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%). In that case, the REIT could reduce distributions to such stockholders by the amount of such tax paid by the REIT attributable to such stockholder's ownership. Treasury regulations provide that such a reduction in distributions does not give rise to a preferential dividend that could adversely affect the REIT's compliance with its distribution requirements. See " Annual distribution requirements." The manner in which excess inclusion income is calculated, or would be allocated to stockholders, including allocations among shares of different classes of stock, is not clear under current law. As required by IRS guidance, we intend to make such determinations using a reasonable method. Tax-exempt investors, foreign investors and taxpayers with net operating losses should carefully consider the tax consequences described above, and are urged to consult their tax advisors.

If a subsidiary partnership of ours that we do not wholly-own, directly or through one or more disregarded entities, were a TMP, the foregoing rules would not apply. Rather, the partnership that is a TMP would be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes and potentially would be subject to corporate income tax or withholding tax. In addition, this characterization would alter our income and asset test calculations, and could adversely affect our compliance with those requirements. We intend to monitor the structure of any TMPs in which we have an interest to ensure that they will not adversely affect our qualification as a REIT.

***Asset-backed securities***

Investments in asset-backed securities, or ABS, generally are not qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test applicable to REITs and generally do not generate qualifying income for purposes of the 75% income test applicable to REITs. As a result, we may be limited in our ability to invest in such assets.

***Failure to qualify***

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification other than the income or asset tests, we could avoid disqualification if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure. Relief provisions are available for failures of the income tests and asset tests, as described above in " Income tests" and " Asset tests."

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions described above do not apply, we would be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. We cannot deduct distributions to stockholders in any year in which we are not a REIT, nor would we be required to make distributions in such a year. In

Table of Contents

this situation, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, distributions to most domestic stockholders that are U.S. individuals, trusts and estates will generally be taxable at the preferential income tax rates (i.e., the 20% maximum federal rate) for qualified dividends. In addition, subject to the limitations of the Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless we are entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we would also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we lost qualification. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

**Tax Aspects of Our Operating Partnerships and any Subsidiary Partnerships**

All of our investments are held through two series of LCFH, Series REIT of LCFH and Series TRS of LCFH. Series REIT holds an interest in Series TRS through a TRS. In addition, our operating partnerships may hold certain of their investments indirectly through subsidiary partnerships and limited liability companies which we expect will be treated as partnerships or disregarded entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, entities that are treated as partnerships or disregarded entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes are "pass-through" entities which are not required to pay federal income tax. Rather, partners or members of such entities are allocated their shares of the items of income, gain, loss, deduction and credit of the partnership or limited liability company, and are potentially required to pay tax on this income, without regard to whether they receive a distribution from the partnership or limited liability company. We will include in our income our share of these partnership and limited liability company items for purposes of the various gross income tests, the computation of our REIT taxable income, and the REIT distribution requirements. Moreover, for purposes of the asset tests, we will include our pro rata share of assets held by our operating partnerships, including their share of their subsidiary partnerships and limited liability companies, based on our capital interest in each such entity. See " Taxation of Ladder Capital Corp."

***Entity Classification***

Our interests in our operating partnerships and the subsidiary partnerships and limited liability companies involve special tax considerations, including the possibility that the IRS might challenge the status of these entities as partnerships (or disregarded entities), as opposed to associations taxable as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If our operating partnerships or a subsidiary partnership or limited liability company were treated as an association, they would be taxable as a corporation and would be required to pay an entity-level tax on their income. In addition, the IRS could challenge the treatment of our series partnerships as separate entities. In this situation, the character of our assets and items of gross income would change and could prevent us from satisfying the REIT asset tests and possibly the REIT income tests. See " Taxation of Ladder Capital Corp Asset tests" and " Income tests." This, in turn, could prevent us from qualifying as a REIT. See " Failure to qualify" for a discussion of the effect of our failure to meet these tests. In addition, a change in the tax status or tax treatment of our operating partnerships, a subsidiary partnership or limited liability company might be treated as a taxable event. If so, we might incur a tax liability without any related cash distributions. We believe that our operating partnerships and each of our other partnerships and limited liability companies (for which we do not make an election to be treated as corporations for federal income tax purposes) will be classified as partnerships or disregarded entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

***Allocations of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction***

A partnership agreement (or, in the case of a limited liability company treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the limited liability company agreement) will generally determine the allocation of partnership income and loss among partners. Generally, Section 704(b) of the Code and

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

the Treasury regulations thereunder require that partnership allocations respect the economic arrangement of the partners. If an allocation of partnership income or loss does not comply with the requirements of Section 704(b) of the Code and the Treasury regulations thereunder, the item subject to the allocation will be reallocated in accordance with the partners' interests in the partnership. This reallocation will be determined by taking into account all of the facts and circumstances relating to the economic arrangement of the partners with respect to such item. Our operating partnerships' allocations of taxable income and loss are intended to comply with the requirements of Section 704(b) of the Code and the Treasury regulations thereunder.

### **Taxation of stockholders**

#### *Taxation of taxable U.S. Holders*

As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a holder of our Class A common stock or debt securities who for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, or of any state thereof, or the District of Columbia;

an estate, the income of which is includable in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or

a trust if (i) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more U.S. fiduciaries have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (ii) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership, including for this purpose any entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds our Class A common stock or debt securities, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. An investor that is a partnership and the partners in such partnership should consult their tax advisors about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our Class A common stock.

*Distributions.* So long as we qualify as a REIT, the distributions that we make to our U.S. Holders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits that we do not designate as capital gain dividends will generally be taken into account by such stockholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporations. With limited exceptions, our dividends are not eligible for taxation at the preferential income tax rates (i.e., the 20% maximum U.S. federal rate) for qualified dividends received by most domestic U.S. Holders that are individuals, trusts and estates from taxable C corporations. Such U.S. Holders, however, are taxed at the preferential rates on dividends designated by and received from REITs to the extent that the dividends are attributable to:

income retained by the REIT in the prior taxable year on which the REIT was subject to corporate level income tax (less the amount of tax);

dividends received by the REIT from TRSs or other taxable C corporations; or

income in the prior taxable year from the sales of "built-in gain" property acquired by the REIT from C corporations in carryover basis transactions (less the amount of corporate tax on such income).

Distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends generally will be taxed to our U.S. Holders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that such distributions do not exceed our actual net





## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the U.S. Holder that receives such distribution has held its stock. We may elect to retain and pay taxes on some or all of our net long-term capital gains, in which case provisions of the Code will treat our U.S. Holders as having received, solely for tax purposes, our undistributed capital gains, and the U.S. Holders will receive a corresponding credit for taxes that we paid on such undistributed capital gains. See "Taxation of Ladder Capital Corp Annual distribution requirements." Corporate U.S. Holders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Long-term capital gains are generally taxable at maximum U.S. federal rates of 20% in the case of stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates, and 35% in the case of stockholders that are corporations. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are subject to a 25% maximum U.S. federal income tax rate for taxpayers who are taxed as individuals, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will generally represent a return of capital and will not be taxable to a U.S. Holder to the extent that the amount of such distributions does not exceed the adjusted basis of the U.S. Holder's shares in respect of which the distributions were made. Rather, the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of the U.S. Holder's shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a U.S. Holder's shares, such holder generally must include such distributions in income as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less. In addition, any dividend that we declare in October, November or December of any year and that is payable to a stockholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the stockholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the dividend before the end of January of the following calendar year.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses and capital losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See "Taxation of Ladder Capital Corp Annual distribution requirements." Such losses, however, are not passed through to stockholders and do not offset income of stockholders from other sources, nor would such losses affect the character of any distributions that we make, which are generally subject to tax in the hands of stockholders to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits.

*Dispositions of Ladder stock.* If a U.S. stockholder sells or disposes of shares of our stock, it will generally recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on the sale or other disposition and the stockholder's adjusted tax basis in the shares of Ladder stock. In general, capital gains recognized by individuals, trusts and estates upon the sale or disposition of our stock will be subject to a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20% if the stock is held for more than one year, and will be taxed at ordinary income rates (of up to 39.6%) if the stock is held for one year or less. Gains recognized by U.S. Holders that are corporations are subject to U.S. federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not such gains are classified as long-term capital gains. Capital losses recognized by a U.S. Holder upon the disposition of our stock that was held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, and are generally available only to offset capital gain income of the U.S. Holder but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of shares of our stock by a U.S. Holder who has held the shares for six months or less, after applying holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions that we make that are required to be treated by the stockholder as long-term capital gain.

If an investor recognizes a loss upon a subsequent disposition of our stock or other securities in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of Treasury regulations involving "reportable transactions" could apply, with a resulting requirement to separately disclose the

Table of Contents

loss-generating transaction to the IRS. These regulations, though directed towards "tax shelters," are broadly written and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. The Code imposes significant penalties for failure to comply with these requirements. You should consult your tax advisor concerning any possible disclosure obligation with respect to the receipt or disposition of our stock or securities or transactions that we might undertake directly or indirectly. Moreover, you should be aware that we and other participants in the transactions in which we are involved (including their advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

*Passive activity losses and investment interest limitations.* Distributions that we make and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. Holder will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. Holders will not be able to apply any "passive losses" against income or gain relating to our stock. To the extent that distributions we make do not constitute a return of capital, they will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation.

***Taxation of foreign stockholders***

The rules governing U.S. federal income taxation of the ownership and disposition of our Class A common stock by persons that are, for purposes of such taxation, nonresident alien individuals, foreign corporations, foreign partnerships or foreign estates or trusts (collectively, "Non-U.S. Holders") are complex, and no attempt is made herein to provide more than a brief summary of such rules. Accordingly, the discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income tax law and does not address state, local or foreign tax consequences that may be relevant to a Non-U.S. Holder in light of its particular circumstances. In addition, this discussion is based on current law, which is subject to change, and assumes that Ladder will qualify for taxation as a REIT. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors to determine the impact of U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax laws with regard to the ownership and disposition of our Class A common stock (including reporting requirements) in light of their individual circumstances.

*Ordinary dividends.* The portion of dividends received by Non-U.S. Holders that is: (i) payable out of our earnings and profits; (ii) which is not attributable to our capital gains; and (iii) which is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. Holder, will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30%, unless reduced or eliminated by treaty.

In general, Non-U.S. Holders will not be considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of their ownership of our stock. In cases where the dividend income from a Non-U.S. Holder's investment in our stock is, or is treated as, effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at graduated rates, in the same manner as domestic stockholders are taxed with respect to such dividends. Such income must generally be reported on a U.S. income tax return filed by or on behalf of the Non-U.S. Holder. The income may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation.

*Non-dividend distributions.* Unless our stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest (a "USRPI"), distributions that we make which are not dividends out of our earnings and profits will not be subject to U.S. income tax. If we cannot determine at the time a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. The Non-U.S. Holder may seek a refund from the IRS of any amounts withheld if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. If our stock constitutes a USRPI, as described below, distributions that we make in excess of the sum of: (a) the stockholder's proportionate share of our earnings and profits, plus (b) the stockholder's basis in its stock, will be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980, or FIRPTA, at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a domestic stockholder of the same type (e.g., an individual or a

Table of Contents

corporation, as the case may be), and the collection of the tax will be enforced by a withholding at a rate of 10% of the amount by which the distribution exceeds the stockholder's share of our earnings and profits.

*Capital gain dividends.* Under FIRPTA, a distribution that we make to a Non-U.S. Holder, to the extent attributable to gains from dispositions of USRPIs that we held directly or through pass-through subsidiaries, or USRPI capital gains, will, except as described below, be considered effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. Holder and will be subject to U.S. income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. individuals or corporations, without regard to whether we designate the distribution as a capital gain dividend. See above under "Taxation of foreign stockholders Ordinary dividends," for a discussion of the consequences of income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. In addition, we will be required to withhold tax equal to 35% of the maximum amount that could have been designated as USRPI capital gains dividends. Distributions subject to FIRPTA may also be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation. A distribution is not attributable to USRPI capital gain if we held an interest in the underlying asset solely as a creditor. Capital gain dividends received by a Non-U.S. Holder that are attributable to dispositions of our assets other than USRPIs are not subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax, unless: (i) the gain is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the Non-U.S. Holder would be subject to the same treatment as U.S. holders with respect to such gain; or (ii) the Non-U.S. Holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, in which case the Non-U.S. Holder will incur a 30% tax on his capital gains. We do not expect that a significant portion of our assets will be USRPIs.

A capital gain dividend that would otherwise have been treated as a USRPI capital gain will not be so treated or be subject to FIRPTA, and generally will not be treated as income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, and instead will be treated in the same manner as an ordinary dividend (see "Taxation of foreign stockholders Ordinary dividends"), if: (i) the capital gain dividend is received with respect to a class of stock that is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States; and (ii) the recipient Non-U.S. Holder does not own more than 5% of that class of stock at any time during the year ending on the date on which the capital gain dividend is received. We anticipate that our Class A common stock will be "regularly traded" on an established securities exchange.

*Dispositions of Ladder stock.* Unless our stock constitutes a USRPI, a sale of our stock by a Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. taxation under FIRPTA. Our stock will be treated as a USRPI if 50% or more of our assets throughout a prescribed testing period consist of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding, for this purpose, interests in real property solely in a capacity as a creditor. It is not currently anticipated that our stock will constitute a USRPI. However, we cannot assure you that our stock will not become a USRPI.

Even if the foregoing 50% test is met, our stock will not constitute a USRPI if we are a "domestically controlled qualified investment entity." A domestically controlled qualified investment entity includes a REIT, less than 50% of value of which is held directly or indirectly by Non-U.S. Holders at all times during a specified testing period. We believe that we will be and will remain a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, and that a sale of our stock should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. However, no assurance can be given that we will be or will remain a domestically controlled qualified investment entity.

In the event that we are not a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, but our stock is "regularly traded," as defined by applicable Treasury regulations, on an established securities market, a Non-U.S. Holder's sale of our Class A common stock nonetheless also would not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI, provided that the selling Non-U.S. Holder held 5% or less of our

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

outstanding Class A common stock any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the sale. We expect that our Class A common stock will be regularly traded on an established securities market.

If gain on the sale of our stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the Non-U.S. Holder would be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return and would be subject to the same treatment as a domestic stockholder with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals, and the purchaser of the stock could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

Gain from the sale of our stock that would not otherwise be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a Non-U.S. Holder in two cases: (i) if the Non-U.S. Holder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such Non-U.S. Holder, the Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to the same treatment as a domestic stockholder with respect to such gain; or (ii) if the Non-U.S. Holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gain. In addition, even if we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, upon disposition of our stock (subject to the 5% exception applicable to "regularly traded" stock described above), a Non-U.S. Holder may be treated as having gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI if the Non-U.S. Holder: (i) disposes of our Class A common stock within a 30-day period preceding the ex-dividend date of a distribution, any portion of which, but for the disposition, would have been treated as gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI; and (ii) acquires, or enters into a contract or option to acquire, other shares of our Class A common stock within 30 days after such ex-dividend date.

*Estate tax.* If our stock is owned or treated as owned by an individual who is not a citizen or resident (as specially defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) of the United States at the time of such individual's death, the stock will be includable in the individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise, and may therefore be subject to U.S. federal estate tax.

**Foreign stockholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign income and other tax consequences of owning Ladder stock.**

### *Taxation of tax-exempt stockholders*

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from U.S. federal income taxation. However, they may be subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI"). While some investments in real estate may generate UBTI, the IRS has ruled that dividend distributions from a REIT to a tax-exempt entity do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, and provided that: (i) a tax-exempt stockholder has not held our stock as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Code (i.e., where the acquisition or holding of the property is financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt stockholder); and (ii) our stock is not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, distributions that we make and income from the sale of our stock generally should not give rise to UBTI to a tax-exempt stockholder.

Tax-exempt stockholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from U.S. federal income taxation under sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Code are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally require such stockholders to characterize distributions that we make as UBTI.

In certain circumstances, a pension trust that owns more than 10% of our stock could be required to treat a percentage of the dividends as UBTI if we are a "pension-held REIT." We will not be a

Table of Contents

pension-held REIT unless: (i) we are required to "look through" one or more of our pension trust stockholders in order to satisfy the REIT "closely-held" test; and (ii) either (a) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock, or (b) one or more pension trusts, each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our stock, collectively owns more than 50% of the value of our stock. Certain restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock generally should prevent a tax-exempt entity from owning more than 10% of the value of our stock and generally should prevent us from becoming a pension-held REIT.

**Tax-exempt stockholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign income and other tax consequences of owning Ladder stock.**

**Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders of our Debt Securities**

This section summarizes the taxation of Non-U.S. Holders of our debt securities. This discussion deals only with certain U.S. federal income tax consequences to a Non-U.S. Holder that acquires fixed rate debt securities issued by us without original issue discount in their initial offering and at their issue price.

*Taxation of Interest*

Subject to the backup withholding rules below, payments of interest on a debt security to any Non-U.S. Holder will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax, provided that we or the person otherwise responsible for withholding U.S. federal income tax from payments on our debt securities receives a certification from the Non-U.S. Holder, discussed below, and the holder is not:

an actual or constructive owner of 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all of our voting stock;

a "controlled foreign corporation" related, directly or indirectly, to us through stock ownership; or

earning such interest as income effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States (and, if an applicable income tax treaty so requires, as attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States).

Regarding certification, the Non-U.S. Holder may provide a properly completed IRS Form W-8BEN-E or Form W-8BEN (or substitute Form W-8BEN or appropriate successor form) signed under penalties of perjury that provides the Non-U.S. Holder's name and address and certifies that the Non-U.S. Holder is not a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Alternatively, in a case where a security clearing organization, bank, or other financial institution holds our debt securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business on behalf of the Non-U.S. Holder, we or the person that otherwise would be required to withhold U.S. federal income tax generally should receive from that financial institution (i) a certification, signed under penalties of perjury, that such financial institution (or another such financial institution) has received from the Non-U.S. Holder a properly completed IRS Form W-8BEN-E or Form W-8BEN (or substitute Form W-8BEN or the appropriate successor form), and (ii) a copy of such IRS Form W-8BEN-E or Form W-8BEN (or substitute Form W-8BEN or the appropriate successor form). In each case, the certification requirement will not be satisfied if we or the person otherwise responsible for withholding U.S. federal income tax from payments on our debt securities has actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner of the note is not a Non-U.S. Holder.

A Non-U.S. Holder that does not qualify for exemption from withholding under the rules described in the preceding paragraphs will generally be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at the rate of 30%, or a lower treaty rate, if applicable, on payments of interest on our debt

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

securities unless the interest is effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business in the United States (as described below).

If the interest on a debt security is effectively connected with the conduct by a Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an applicable income tax treaty so requires, is attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States), such income will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis at the rates generally applicable to U.S. persons. If the Non-U.S. Holder is a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the "dividend equivalent amount" attributable to such income also may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax (or lower treaty rate, if applicable). If income is subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis in accordance with the rules described above, such income will not be subject to U.S. withholding tax so long as the holder provides us, or the person otherwise required to withhold U.S. federal income tax, with the appropriate certification, generally on IRS Form W-8ECI.

In order to claim a tax treaty benefit, the Non-U.S. Holder must provide a properly executed Form W-8BEN-E, Form W-8BEN or the appropriate successor form.

Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding any applicable income tax treaties, which may provide for a lower rate of withholding tax, an exemption from or reduction of branch profits tax, or other rules different from those described above.

### ***Sale, Exchange, or Disposition***

Subject to the backup withholding rules below, any gain realized by a Non-U.S. Holder on the sale, exchange, retirement, or other disposition of a debt security will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless:

such gain is effectively connected with the conduct by such Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States (and, if an applicable income tax treaty so requires, is attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States); or

the Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions are satisfied.

Proceeds from the disposition of a debt security that are attributable to accrued but unpaid interest will generally be subject to, or exempt from, U.S. federal income and withholding tax to the same extent as described above with respect to interest paid on a debt security.

Gain that is effectively connected with the conduct by a Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an applicable income tax treaty so requires, is attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States) will generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis at the rates generally applicable to U.S. persons. In addition, if such Non-U.S. Holder is a foreign corporation, such holder may also be subject to a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate as an applicable treaty may provide) on its effectively connected earnings and profits for the taxable year, subject to certain adjustments.

### **Other tax considerations**

#### ***Legislative or other actions affecting REITs***

The present U.S. federal income tax treatment of REITs may be modified, possibly with retroactive effect, by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time. The REIT rules are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department which may result in statutory changes as well as revisions to regulations and interpretations. Changes to the U.S. federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our Class A common stock or debt securities.

Table of Contents

***Medicare 3.8% tax on investment income***

Certain U.S. holders who are individuals, estates or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds are required to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on dividends and certain other investment income, including capital gains from the sale or other disposition of our Class A common stock or debt securities.

***Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act***

Withholding at a rate of 30% generally will be required on dividends and payments of interest in respect of, and, after December 31, 2016, gross proceeds from the sale of, our Class A common stock and debt securities held by or through certain foreign financial institutions (including investment funds), unless such institution (i) enters into an agreement with the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information with respect to shares in the institution held by certain U.S. persons and by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by U.S. persons and to withhold on certain payments, or (ii) if required under an intergovernmental agreement between the U.S. and an applicable foreign country reports such information to its local tax authority, which will exchange such information with the U.S. authorities. An intergovernmental agreement between the U.S. and an applicable foreign country may modify these requirements. Accordingly, the entity through which our Class A common stock or debt securities is held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, dividends and payments of interest in respect of, and, after December 31, 2016, gross proceeds from the sale of, our Class A common stock and debt securities held by an investor that is a non-financial non-U.S. entity which does not qualify under certain exemptions will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%, unless such entity either (i) certifies to us that such entity does not have any "substantial United States owners" or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's "substantial United States owners," which we will in turn provide to the Secretary of the Treasury. We will not pay any additional amounts to stockholders or holders of our debt securities in respect of any amounts withheld. Non-U.S. Holders are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of these withholding taxes on their investment in our Class A common stock or debt securities.

***State, local and foreign taxes***

We and our subsidiaries, stockholders, and debtholders may be subject to state, local or foreign taxation in various jurisdictions including those in which we or they transact business, own property or reside. Our state, local or foreign tax treatment and that of our stockholders and debtholders may not conform to the U.S. federal income tax treatment discussed above. Any foreign taxes that we incur do not pass through to stockholders or debtholders as a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the application and effect of state, local and foreign income and other tax laws on an investment in our stock or debt securities.

***Backup withholding and information reporting***

A Non-U.S. Holder not subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax may nonetheless be subject to backup withholding and information reporting with respect to dividends and interest paid, and with respect to amounts realized on the disposition of stock or debt securities, unless the non-U.S. holder provides the withholding agent with the applicable IRS Form W-8 or otherwise establishes an exemption. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors as to their qualifications for an exemption for backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining such an exemption. In addition, payments to a Non-U.S. Holder and proceeds from certain dispositions of stock or debt securities may be reported to the IRS and may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty or other agreement. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a Non-U.S. Holder may be credited against the non-U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, or refunded, if the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the information reporting and backup withholding rules to them.

Table of Contents

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

**General**

We may offer and sell securities in one or more transactions from time to time to or through underwriters, who may act as principals or agents, directly to other purchasers or through agents to other purchasers or through any combination of these methods.

A prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of securities may include the following information:

the terms of the offering;

the names of any underwriters or agents;

the purchase price of the securities;

the net proceeds to us from the sale of the securities;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

any initial public offering price; and

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

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, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices in block trades, or in underwritten offerings or in other types of trades.

**Underwriting Compensation**

We may offer these securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by a managing underwriter or managing underwriters or through an underwriter or underwriters without an underwriting syndicate. If underwriters are used for the sale of securities, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities in one or more transactions, including in negotiated transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. In connection with any such underwritten sale of securities, underwriters may receive compensation from us or from purchasers for whom they may act as agents, in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. Underwriters may sell securities to or through dealers, and the dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents.

If we use an underwriter or underwriters in the sale of particular securities, we will execute an underwriting agreement with those underwriters at the time of sale of those securities. The names of the underwriters will be set forth in the prospectus supplement used by the underwriters to sell those securities. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of securities, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to customary conditions precedent and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered if any of the securities are purchased.



## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of securities may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act. Any discounts or commissions that they receive from us and any profit that they receive on the resale of securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. If any entity is deemed an underwriter or any amounts

Table of Contents

deemed underwriting discounts and commissions, the prospectus supplement will identify the underwriter or agent and describe the compensation received from us.

**Indemnification**

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

**Related Transactions**

Various of the underwriters who participate in the distribution of securities, and their affiliates, may perform various commercial banking and investment banking services for us from time to time in the ordinary course of business.

**Delayed Delivery Contracts**

We may authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by institutions to purchase securities from us pursuant to contracts providing for payment and delivery on a future date. These institutions may include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others, but in all cases we must approve these institutions. The obligations of any purchaser under any of these contracts will be subject to the condition that the purchase of the securities shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which such purchaser is subject. The underwriters and other agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of these contracts.

**Price Stabilization and Short Positions**

If underwriters or dealers are used in the sale, until the distribution of the securities is completed, rules of the SEC may limit the ability of any underwriters to bid for and purchase the securities. As an exception to these rules, representatives of any underwriters are permitted to engage in transactions that stabilize the price of the securities. These transactions may consist of bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities. If the underwriters create a short position in the securities in connection with the offering (that is, if they sell more securities than are set forth on the cover page of the prospectus supplement) the representatives of the underwriters may reduce that short position by purchasing securities in the open market.

We make no representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the securities. In addition, we make no representation that the representatives of any underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

**The Selling Stockholders' Distributions**

The Selling Stockholders, which as used herein includes donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares of our Class A common stock or interests in shares of our Class A common stock received after the date of this prospectus from the Selling Stockholders as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other transfer, may, from time to time, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any or all of their shares of our Class A common stock or interests in shares of our Class A common stock on any stock exchange, market or trading facility on which the shares are traded or in private transactions. These dispositions may be at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market price, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices.

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

The Selling Stockholders may use any one or more of the following methods when disposing of shares or interests therein:

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

one or more underwritten offerings;

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

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

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

privately negotiated transactions;

short sales effected after the date the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part is declared effective by the SEC;

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

broker-dealers may agree with the Selling Stockholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share; and

a combination of any such methods of sale.

The Selling Stockholders may, from time to time, pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the shares of our Class A common stock owned by them and, if a Selling Stockholder defaults in the performance of its secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares of our Class A common stock, from time to time, under this prospectus, or under an amendment or supplement to this prospectus amending the list of the Selling Stockholders to include the pledgee, transferee or other successors in interest as the Selling Stockholders under this prospectus. The Selling Stockholders also may transfer the shares of our Class A common stock in other circumstances, in which case the transferees, pledgees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of this prospectus.

In connection with the sale of our Class A common stock or interests therein, the Selling Stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of our Class A common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The Selling Stockholders may also sell shares of our Class A common stock short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge our Class A common stock to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The Selling Stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

The aggregate proceeds to the Selling Stockholders from the sale of our Class A common stock offered by them will be the purchase price of our Class A common stock less discounts or commissions, if any. The Selling Stockholders reserve the right to accept and, together with their agents from time to time, to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of our Class A common stock to be made directly or through agents. We will not receive any of the proceeds from any offering by the Selling Stockholders.

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

The Selling Stockholders also may resell all or a portion of the shares of our Class A common stock in open market transactions in reliance upon Rule 144 under the Securities Act, provided that

Table of Contents

they meet the criteria and conform to the requirements of that rule, or pursuant to other available exemptions from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

The Selling Stockholders and any underwriters, broker-dealers or agents that participate in the sale of our Class A common stock or interests therein may be "underwriters" within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act. Any discounts, commissions, concessions or profit they earn on any resale of the shares of our Class A common stock may be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. If any Selling Stockholder is an "underwriter" within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act, then the Selling Stockholder will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. Underwriters and their controlling persons, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us and the Selling Stockholders, to indemnification against and contribution toward specific civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

To the extent required, the shares of our Class A common stock to be sold, the respective purchase prices and public offering prices, the names of any agents, dealer or underwriter, and any applicable discounts, commissions, concessions or other compensation with respect to a particular offer will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement or, if appropriate, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement that includes this prospectus.

To facilitate the offering of the shares of our Class A common stock offered by the Selling Stockholders, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of our Class A common stock. This may include over-allotments or short sales, which involve the sale by persons participating in the offering of more shares than were sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option, if any. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of our Class A common stock by bidding for or purchasing shares in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if shares sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of our Class A common stock at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

Selling Stockholders may use this prospectus in connection with resales of the securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will identify the Selling Stockholders, the terms of the securities and any material relationships between us and the Selling Stockholders. Selling Stockholders may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act in connection with the securities they resell and any profits on the sales may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, the Selling Stockholders will receive all the net proceeds from the resale of the securities.

**Rule 10b5-1 Plans**

To our knowledge, there are currently no plans, arrangements or understandings between any Selling Stockholders and any underwriter, broker-dealer or agent regarding the sale of our Class A common stock by the Selling Stockholders, except that we understand certain Selling Stockholders may in the future adopt Rule 10b5-1 plans, allowing them to sell some or all of their shares over time as part of their financial, tax and/or estate planning. See "Selling Stockholders" elsewhere in this prospectus. Under a Rule 10b5-1 plan, a broker executes trades pursuant to pre-set parameters established by a Selling Stockholder when entering into the plan, without further direction from the Selling Stockholder.

Table of Contents

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Kirkland & Ellis LLP, New York, New York, and certain legal and tax matters as described under "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" will be passed on by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Chicago, Illinois.

**EXPERTS**

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

# **Ladder Capital Corp**

**Class A Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Warrants**

**Debt Securities**

**Guarantees of Debt Securities**

**Class A Common Stock by the Selling Stockholders**

**80,959,036 Shares of Class A Common Stock by the Selling Stockholders**

---

**PROSPECTUS**

---

Table of Contents

**PART II**  
**INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS**

**Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the various expenses expected to be incurred by the Registrant in connection with the sale and distribution of the securities being registered hereby, other than underwriting discounts and commissions. All amounts are estimated except the SEC registration fee and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority filing fee.

SEC registration fee	\$ 174,696.16*
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority filing fee	\$ 225,500
Accounting fees and expenses	(1)
Legal fees and expenses	(1)
Printing and engraving expenses	(1)
Registrar and Transfer Agent's fees	(1)
Miscellaneous fees and expenses	(1)
 Total	 \$ 400,196.16

---

\*

This fee relates to the secondary offering of Class A common stock by the Selling Stockholders. Any fee in respect of a primary offering by the Registrant has been deferred in reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r).

(1)

Estimated expenses are not presently known. The foregoing sets forth the general categories of expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) that we anticipate we will incur in connection with the offering of securities under this registration statement on Form S-3. An estimate of the aggregate expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being offered will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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

The Registrant is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL allows a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation will not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except where the director breached the duty of loyalty, failed to act in good faith, engaged in intentional misconduct or knowingly violated a law, authorized the payment of a dividend or approved a stock repurchase in violation of Delaware corporate law or obtained an improper personal benefit. The Registrant's Certificate of Incorporation provides for this limitation of liability.

Section 145 of the DGCL ("Section 145") provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was, is or is threatened to be made party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person is or was an officer, director, employee or agent of such corporation or is or was serving at the request of such corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was illegal. A Delaware corporation may indemnify any persons who are, were or are threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or



Table of Contents

suit by or in the right of the corporation by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit, provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests, provided that no indemnification is permitted without judicial approval if the officer, director, employee or agent is adjudged to be liable to the corporation. Where an officer or director is successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action referred to above, the corporation must indemnify him against the expenses which such officer or director has actually and reasonably incurred.

Section 145 further authorizes a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent 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 enterprise, against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would otherwise have the power to indemnify him under Section 145.

The Registrant's Bylaws provide that the Registrant must indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent authorized by the DGCL and must also pay expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding in advance of its final disposition; provided, that if and to the extent required by the DGCL, the advancement of expenses shall only be made upon delivery of an undertaking, by or on behalf of an indemnified person, to repay all amounts so advanced if it should be determined ultimately that such person is not entitled to be indemnified.

The indemnification rights set forth above shall not be exclusive of any other right which an indemnified person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, provision of the Registrant's Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise.

The Registrant maintains standard policies of insurance that provide coverage (1) to its directors and officers against loss arising from claims made by reason of breach of duty or other wrongful act and (2) to the Registrant with respect to indemnification payments that it may make to such directors and officers as required by its organizational documents or indemnification agreements between the Registrant and its directors and officers.

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

- (a) Exhibits.

The exhibit index attached hereto 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;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement.

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement; and

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

*provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

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

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

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

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

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in 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 the 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; and

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

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 an undersigned registrant; and
- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

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

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



Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

Name	Title	Date
/s/ JONATHAN BILZIN	Director	March 6, 2015
Jonathan Bilzin		
/s/ DOUGLAS DURST	Director	March 6, 2015
Douglas Durst		
/s/ HOWARD PARK	Director	March 6, 2015
Howard Park		
/s/ JOEL C. PETERSON	Director	March 6, 2015
Joel C. Peterson		

II-6

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

#### EXHIBIT INDEX

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Class A Common Stock)
1.2*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Preferred Stock)
1.3*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Warrants)
1.4*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Debt Securities)
4.1	Form of certificate of Class A common stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the registrant's registration statement on Form S-1 (Amendment No. 2, filed January 15, 2014))
4.2	Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 6, 2015)
4.3	Amendment No. 1 to the Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement dated as of January 28, 2015 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 6, 2015)
4.4	Indenture, dated as of September 19, 2012, by and among Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP and Ladder Capital Finance Corporation, as co-issuers, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP and Ladder Capital Finance Corporation's registration statement on Form S-4, filed on April 30, 2013)
4.5	First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 12, 2014, by and among certain subsidiaries of Ladder Capital Corp, as guarantors, Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP and Ladder Capital Finance Corporation, as co-issuers, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 of the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 6, 2015)
4.6	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 28, 2014, by and among Ladder Capital Corp, as guarantor, Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP and Ladder Capital Finance Corporation, as co-issuers, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the registrant's Form 8-K filed on April 3, 2014)
4.7	Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 31, 2014, by and among Lafayette Park JV Member LLC, Series REIT of Ladder Midco LLC, Series TRS of Ladder Midco LLC, Series REIT of Ladder Midco II LLC, Series TRS of Ladder Midco II LLC, Series REIT of Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP, Series TRS of Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP, LC TRS I LLC, LC TRS III LLC and Ladder Capital Insurance LLC, as guarantors, Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP and Ladder Capital Finance Corporation, as co-issuers, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the registrant's Form 8-K, filed on January 5, 2015)
4.8	Indenture, dated as of August 1, 2014, among Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP, Ladder Capital Finance Corporation, the guarantors party thereto and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the registrant's Form 8-K filed on August 1, 2014)

## Edgar Filing: Ladder Capital Corp - Form S-3ASR

### Table of Contents

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.9	First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 31, 2014, by and among Lafayette Park JV Member LLC, Series REIT of Ladder Midco LLC, Series TRS of Ladder Midco LLC, Series REIT of Ladder Midco II LLC, Series TRS of Ladder Midco II LLC, Series REIT of Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP, Series TRS of Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP, LC TRS I LLC, LC TRS III LLC and Ladder Capital Insurance LLC, as guarantors, Ladder Capital Finance Holdings LLLP and Ladder Capital Finance Corporation, as co-issuers, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the registrant's Form 8-K, filed on January 5, 2015)
4.10	Form of Senior Note (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the registrant's Form 8-K filed on August 1, 2014)
4.11	Form of Senior Indenture
4.12*	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate
4.13*	Form of Warrant Certificate
5.1	Opinion of Kirkland & Ellis LLP (including consent of such firm)
8.1	Tax opinion of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (including consent of such firm)
12.1	Statement of computation of ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends
23.1	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
23.2	Consent of Kirkland & Ellis LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
23.3	Consent of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (included in Exhibit 8.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on signature page to the registration statement)
25.1	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification

\*

To be filed, if necessary, after effectiveness of this registration statement by an amendment to the registration statement or incorporated by reference from documents filed or to be filed with the SEC under the Exchange Act.