Amtrust Financial Services, Inc. Form 8-K January 19, 2018

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported) January 19, 2018

AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware001-3314304-3106389(State or other jurisdiction<br/>of incorporation)(Commission<br/>File Number)(IRS Employer<br/>Identification No.)

59 Maiden Lane, 43<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New York, New York (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (212) 220-7120

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

"Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

"Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

"Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

"Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.133-4 (c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter)

Emerging growth company "

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On January 19, 2018, AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that the special committee of the board of directors of the Company has retained Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. as its financial advisor and the Company has retained BofA Merrill Lynch as its financial advisor. The special committee, with the assistance of Deutsche Bank and its legal advisor, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, is evaluating the proposal from private equity funds managed by Stone Point Capital LLC, together with Barry D. Zyskind, George Karfunkel and Leah Karfunkel (collectively, the "Zyskind-Karfunkel Family"), to acquire all of the outstanding common shares of the Company that are not currently owned or controlled by the Zyskind-Karfunkel Family. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01 Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Press Release, dated January 19, 2018, issued by AmTrust Financial Services, Inc.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. (Registrant)

Date January 19, 2018

/s/ Stephen Ungar Stephen Ungar SVP, General Counsel and Secretary