
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)

December 23, 2008

RENT-A-CENTER, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

0-25370
(Commission File Number)

45-0491516
(IRS Employer Identification
No.)

5501 Headquarters Drive
Plano, Texas 75024
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(972) 801-1100
(Registrant's telephone
number, including area code)

N/A
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425).
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12).
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b)).
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c)).
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Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.

On December 23, 2008, the Board of Directors of Rent-A-Center, Inc. (the "Board") appointed Paula Stern, Ph.D. to fill a vacancy on the Board. Dr. Stern will serve as a Class I director until the 2010 annual meeting of stockholders. Dr. Stern has not been, and is not expected to be, named to any committee of the Board at this time. The Board has determined that Dr. Stern is "independent" as defined by the listing standards of The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibit 99.1

Press Release, dated December 23, 2008.

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.

RENT-A-CENTER, INC.

Date: December 23, 2008

By: /s/ Ronald D. DeMoss
Ronald D. DeMoss
Executive Vice President — General Counsel and
Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release, dated December 23, 2008

For Immediate Release:

**PAULA STERN, Ph.D. JOINS
RENT-A-CENTER, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Plano, Texas, December 23, 2008 — Rent-A-Center, Inc. (the “Company”) (NASDAQ/NGS:RCII), the nation’s largest rent-to-own operator, announced today that Paula Stern, Ph.D. has been named to its Board of Directors. The Honorable Paula Stern is Chairwoman of The Stern Group, Inc., an international advisory firm in areas of business and government strategy established in 1988. She was Commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission from 1978 to 1987 and Chairwoman from 1984 to 1986. She is Vice-Chair of the Atlantic Council of the United States and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Economic Development and on the Advisory Council of Columbia University School of Social Work. She is also a member of Council on Foreign Relations, Inter-American Dialogue, Bretton Woods Committee, and the High Level Advisory Group for the Global Subsidies Initiative of the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Dr. Stern also serves on the boards of Avon Products, Inc. and Hasbro, Inc.

“I am honored that Paula Stern has chosen to become a member of our Board of Directors,” stated Mark E. Speese, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. “Paula brings extensive experience in the areas of international business, economics and government to the Board, and will provide skillful leadership as we continue to build on our strategic growth initiatives,” Speese said.

“Rent-A-Center has established the leading brand in its industry,” said Dr. Stern. “I am very pleased to be joining the Board of Directors of Rent-A-Center and look forward to making significant contributions in the coming year and beyond,” she concluded.

Dr. Stern was appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors and will serve as a Class I director until the Company’s 2010 annual meeting of stockholders.

Rent-A-Center, Inc., headquartered in Plano, Texas, currently operates approximately 3,000 company-owned stores nationwide and in Canada and Puerto Rico. The stores generally offer high-quality, durable goods such as home electronics, appliances, computers and furniture and accessories to consumers under flexible rental purchase agreements that generally allow the customer to obtain ownership of the merchandise at the conclusion of an agreed-upon rental period.

Contacts for Rent-A-Center, Inc.:

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