

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information	
1a	Name of plan COLUMBIA BANK SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
		1c Effective date of plan 04/01/1984
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) COLUMBIA BANK 19-01 RT 208 NORTH FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-0900560 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 201-796-3600 2d Business code (see instructions) 522120

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.			
Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.			
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/10/2024	JENIFER WALDEN
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 1049
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 785 6a(2) 733 6b 12 6c 234 6d 979 6e 2 6f 981 6g(1) 1010 6g(2) 964 6h 81
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2J 2K 2S 2G 2E 2F 2T 3H 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan COLUMBIA BANK SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 COLUMBIA BANK	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-0900560	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL
04-2647786

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
37 60 64 65 71	RECORDKEEPER	-293436	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
AB SM CAP GRTH ADV - ALLIANCEBERNS 18, RUE EUGNE RUPPERT LUXEMBOURG, LU L-245 LU	0.20%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
CALVERT BOND A - SS&C GIDS, INC 2000 CROWN COLONY DRIVE QUINCY, MA 02169	0.40%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
PARNASSUS CORE EQ IV - ULTIMUS FUN 31-1663251	0.40%	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan COLUMBIA BANK SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 COLUMBIA BANK	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-0900560	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	66951	3079
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	138288	1343
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	0	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	339838	447726
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	0	0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	95040527	114766265
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	20368498	14887553
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	115954102	130105966
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h Operating payables	1h	0	0
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	115954102	130105966

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	2566684	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	5544202	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	657717	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		8768603
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	380710	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	26983	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		407693
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	2363614	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		2363614
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	3396780	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	4144455	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		-747675
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	-1703048	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		0
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		20189397
c Other income	2c		302772
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		29581356

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	15417459	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		15417459
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		0
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		0
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	0	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	9343	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)	0	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	2690	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)	0	
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)	0	
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)	0	
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)	0	
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)	0	
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	0	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		12033
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		15429492

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		14151864
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		0
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		0

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☒ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **COHNREZNICK LLP**

(2) EIN: **22-1478099**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	☒	☐	2039
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒	☐	15000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	☐	☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒	☐	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	☐	☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☐	☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	☐	☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	☐	☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	☐	☐	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan COLUMBIA BANK SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 COLUMBIA BANK		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-0900560
Part I	Distributions	
All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.		
1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....		1
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 04-6568107		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year		3
Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)	
4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.		
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.		
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)		6a
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year		6b
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)		6c
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.		
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
Part III	Amendments	
9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ☐ Increase ☐ Decrease ☐ Both ☐ No		
Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.	
10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?..... ☐ Yes ☐ No		
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ☐ Yes ☐ No		
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.		
Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023 v. 230707		

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:		
a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14c	
15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	
16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	
17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):	
a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%	
b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.	
a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:	
☐ Yes.	
☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.	
☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.	
☐ No. Other. Provide explanation. _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No	
21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).	
☐ Design-based safe harbor method	
☐ "Prior year" ADP test	
☒ "Current year" ADP test	
☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>06 / 30 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q702438A</u> .	

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

FORM 11-K

(Mark one)

- ☒ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023

or

- ☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Commission File Number: 001-38456

- A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan

- B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**Columbia Financial, Inc.
19-01 Route 208 North
Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410**

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Financial Statements and Schedules

December 31, 2023 and 2022
(With Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm)

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Plan Administrator, Plan Participants and Columbia Bank's Savings and Investment Committee
Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental Information

The supplemental information in the accompanying Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions (Schedule H, Line 4a) and Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) (Schedule H, Line 4i) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 has been subjected to the audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's 2023 financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2020.

Parsippany, New Jersey
June 21, 2024

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Assets:		
Investments:		
Employer common stock	\$ 14,887,553	\$ 20,368,498
Investment in mutual funds, at fair value (See Note 3)	114,766,265	95,040,527
Total investments	<u>129,653,818</u>	<u>115,409,025</u>
Receivables:		
Employee contributions receivable	1,343	138,288
Employer contributions receivable	3,079	66,951
Notes receivable from participants	447,726	339,838
Total receivables	<u>452,148</u>	<u>545,077</u>
Total assets	130,105,966	115,954,102
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 130,105,966</u>	<u>\$ 115,954,102</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions:

Investment income:	
Interest and dividends	\$ 2,744,324
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	17,738,674
Total investment income	20,482,998
Other income	302,772
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	26,983
Contributions:	
Employee	5,544,202
Rollovers	657,717
Employer, net of forfeitures	2,566,684
Total contributions	8,768,603
Total additions	29,581,356
Deductions:	
Benefits paid	15,417,459
Administrative expenses	12,033
Total deductions	15,429,492
Net increase in net assets	14,151,864
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	115,954,102
Net assets available for benefits at end of year	\$ 130,105,966

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan

The following description is provided for general information summary purposes. Participants of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan (the "Plan") should refer to the Summary Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

(a) General

The Plan is a participant-directed, defined contribution plan covering those employees of Columbia Bank and its subsidiaries (the "Bank") under the provisions of Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "IRC"), which includes a deferred arrangement as described in Section 401(k) of the IRC, for the benefit of eligible employees of the Bank. Participants are allowed to begin contributions to the Plan effective the first day of the month following their hire date. Contributions are deposited with and invested by Fidelity Management Trust Company ("FMTTC"), the trustee of the Plan, effective February 3, 2022, when the assets in the Plan were transferred from Newport Trust. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). The Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan Committee is responsible for the oversight of the Plan.

Effective May 1, 2022, the Adoption Agreement provides that each former employee of RSI Bancorp, MHC, RSI Bancorp, Inc. and RSI Bank (collectively "RSI Bank") who became employed by the Company in connection with the acquisition of RSI Bank by the Company shall have his or her service with RSI Bank prior to such acquisition taken into account hereunder for purposes of determining his or her vested interest to the same extent that such service would have been taken into account for such purpose had it been performed as an employee of the Bank.

Effective November 3, 2023, the Adoption Agreement provides that each former employee of Freehold Savings Bank who became employed by the Company in connection with the acquisition by the Columbia Financial, Inc. shall have his or her service with Freehold Savings Bank prior to such acquisition taken into account hereunder for purposes of determining his or her vested interest to the same extent that such service would have been taken into account for such purpose had it been performed as an employee of the Bank.

(b) Eligibility

Generally, all non-union full time, part time and temporary employees of the Bank with more than 1,000 hours of service are eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of the month following their hire date.

(c) Contributions

Participants may elect to make tax deferred contributions by payroll deduction at an annual amount of up to 60% of total pay up to a maximum amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), as defined in the Plan. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year and who are making deferral contributions to the Plan are eligible to make catch-up contributions of up to a maximum of \$7,500 for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Plan also allows Roth contributions. The Bank will contribute an amount on the participant's behalf equal to 100% of that portion of the participant's contribution of the first 3.00% for employees hired prior to October 1, 2018, and the first 4.50% of contributions for employees hired on or after October 1, 2018, generally, after six months of service. The participant may change the contribution percentage monthly, and any change in a participant's pay will automatically change the participant's and the Bank's contributions. The Bank's Board of Directors, if profits permit, may authorize that an additional contribution be made during the Plan year. There were no additional contributions made for the year ended December 31, 2023.

All new employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan 30 days after they first become eligible with an automatic participant contribution percentage of 4.50% of eligible compensation. After six months of service, they are entitled to the company match based on their contribution election with a maximum match of 4.50%. Enrolled participants may change their contribution rates at any time, including electing not to contribute to the Plan.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan (continued)

(d) *Participant Accounts*

Each participant's account is valued on a daily basis and credited with the participant's and the Bank's matching contributions, as well as allocations of net investment earnings or losses and administrative expenses. The allocations of employer contributions are based on both participant contributions and participant compensation, as defined in the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Participants are permitted to select among various investment alternatives offered within the Plan. Each alternative has separate investment objectives.

(e) *Vesting*

Participants are 100% vested immediately in their contributions and the earnings or losses thereon. Bank contributions and earnings or losses thereon generally vest 25% after two years of service, 50% after three years of service, 75% after four years of service, and 100% after five years of service. In addition, upon retirement at age 65 or later, or in the event of death or permanent disability, participants have a 100% vested interest in the Bank's contributions and the earnings or losses thereon. In the event of resignation or discharge prior to age 65, a participant who completed at least five years of service has a 100% vested interest in the Bank's contributions and earnings or losses thereon. Such vested interest is generally reduced by 25% for each year of service less than five years. Benefits are generally paid in the form of an annuity, lump-sum distribution, or installments.

(f) *Forfeitures*

Forfeitures of nonvested Bank contributions are used to reduce subsequent employer contributions. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the forfeited nonvested account totaled \$183,258 and \$40,959, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Bank's contribution was reduced by \$107,397 of forfeitures.

(g) *Notes Receivable from Participants*

In accordance with the Plan document, the minimum amount a participant can borrow is \$1,000. The maximum amount a participant can borrow is the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of the vested balance of their account. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. The rate of interest for the term of the loan will be established as of the loan date.

(h) *Payment of Benefits*

During employment, a participant may make withdrawals of amounts applicable to employee and vested employer contributions, subject to certain restrictions, as defined. Participants are entitled to withdraw funds upon attaining age 59½ or for financial hardship before that age. Participants may qualify for financial hardship withdrawals if they have an immediate and substantial financial need, as defined by the Plan document.

Upon termination of employment, a participant may leave their account with the Plan and defer commencement of receipt of their vested balance until April 1st of the calendar year following the calendar year in which they attain age 70½, except to the extent that their vested account balance as of the date of termination is less than \$1,000, in which case their interest in the Plan will be cashed out and payment forwarded to the participant. On termination of service due to death, the value of the entire account will be payable to the participant's beneficiary in the form of a lump-sum payment, or rollover to an individual retirement account or another qualified plan for a surviving spouse. For termination of service due to disability, a participant is entitled to the same withdrawal rights as if they had terminated their employment.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan (continued)

(i) *Hardship Withdrawals*

Under certain conditions, participants, while still employed by the Bank, are permitted to withdraw, in a single sum, the employee contribution portion of their account balance. These conditions include unreimbursed medical expenses, the purchase of a principal residence, the payment of post secondary education tuition or to prevent eviction from or foreclosure on a principal residence.

(j) *Administrative Costs*

Participants who take a loan from the Plan incur a one-time fee for establishing the loan as well as a quarterly loan administrative fee. These fees are charged directly to the individual participant's accounts. Significant administrative expenses of the Plan have been paid by the Bank. Such costs primarily relate to audit fees and use of Bank personnel to administer and account for the Plan.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following are the significant accounting policies followed by the Plan:

(a) *Basis of Accounting*

The Plan's financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, which is in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP").

(b) *Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires the Plan administrator to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(c) *Investment Valuation*

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

(d) *Notes Receivable from Participants*

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document. As of December 31, 2023, interest rates charged on participant loans ranged between 4.00% and 10.50%, with maturities through February 27, 2031. As of December 31, 2022, interest rates charged on participant loans ranged between 4.00% and 8.25%, with maturities through February 27, 2031. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(e) *Risks and Uncertainties*

The Plan invests in various investment securities, including mutual funds and common stock of Columbia Financial, Inc., the parent company of the Bank. These investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

The Plan's exposure to a concentration of credit risk is limited by the diversification of investments across various participant-directed fund elections. Additionally, the investments within each participant-directed fund election are further diversified into varied financial instruments, with the exception of the common stock fund of the parent company of the Bank.

(f) *Income Recognition*

Purchases and sales of investments, and related realized gains and losses, are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

(g) *Payment of Benefits*

Benefit payments are recorded when paid.

(3) Fair Value Measurements

The Plan measures its investments at fair value on a recurring basis in accordance with U.S. GAAP, which establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair values:

- Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that are accessible on the measurement date.
- Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These might include quoted prices for similar instruments in markets that are active or not active, or inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially for the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3 - Prices or valuation techniques that require unobservable inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable (i.e., supported by minimal or no market activity). Valuation techniques include the use of option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(3) Fair Value Measurements (continued)

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investment assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

December 31, 2023				
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stock	\$ 14,887,553	\$ 14,887,553	\$ —	\$ —
Mutual funds	114,766,265	114,766,265	—	—
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 129,653,818</u>	<u>\$ 129,653,818</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

December 31, 2022				
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stock	\$ 20,368,498	\$ 20,368,498	\$ —	\$ —
Mutual funds	95,040,527	95,040,527	—	—
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 115,409,025</u>	<u>\$ 115,409,025</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value.

- Common stock is valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which individual securities are traded.
- Mutual funds are measured based on exchange quoted prices available in active markets.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan's management believes the valuation methodologies are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain investments could result in different fair value measurement at the reporting date. There have been no changes in methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no significant transfers between levels.

(4) Plan Termination

The Bank has not expressed any intention to discontinue the Plan; however, it has the right under the Plan to terminate or discontinue its contributions to the Plan at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, Plan participants will become 100% vested in their Bank contribution accounts and are entitled to full distribution of such amounts.

(5) Tax Status

The Company adopted a nonstandardized volume submitter profit sharing plan with the Cash or Deferred Arrangement (CODA) sponsored by Newport Group Inc. An opinion letter dated March 31, 2014 was received from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") as to the prototype plan's qualified status. Although the prototype plan and the Plan have been amended since the issuance of the IRS determination letter, the Plan administrator believes the Plan is designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IRC and is relying on this opinion letter. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(5) Tax Status (continued)

U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability, or asset, if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. Plan management has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability, or asset, or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by federal and New Jersey tax jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

(6) Related-Party Transactions and Exempt Party-in-Interest Transactions

The Plan owns 772,118 and 942,066 shares of Columbia Financial, Inc. common stock as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. During 2023, the Plan purchased 21,751 shares of stock at an aggregate cost of \$383,616 and sold 191,699 shares of stock for total proceeds of \$4,032,458. The Bank pays for fees for accounting and the administrative services. Additionally, certain employees and officers of the Bank, who are also participants in the Plan, perform administrative services for the Plan at no cost. Fees paid by the Plan for the investment management services are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments. Notes receivable from participants held by the Plan also reflect party-in-interest transactions.

Certain Plan investments were invested in funds managed by FMTC. FMTC is the trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

The plan has an agreement with the FMTC, whereby FMTC provides the Plan a reimbursement of certain expenses charged to the Plan by the Plan's investments, as defined in the agreement. The amounts received from the trustee may be utilized to pay Plan administrative expenses and may also be allocated to participants that have an account balance as of a certain date at the discretion of the Company. At December 31, 2023, the arrangement resulted in other income of \$302,772.

(7) Nonexempt Transactions

As reported on the supplemental Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions (Schedule H, Line 4a), certain Plan contributions for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2023 were not remitted to the trust within the time frame specified by the Department of Labor's Regulation 29 CFR 2510.3-102, thus constituting nonexempt transactions between the Plan and the Company. In 2023, the \$946 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2021 were corrected, \$1,004 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023 were corrected, and \$89 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023 were uncorrected.

(8) Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated events and transactions from December 31, 2023 through June 21, 2024, the date these financial statements were issued.

On May 1, 2024, the Bank completed the transfer of the Freehold Savings Bank 401(k) Plan assets into the Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan.

**COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions

EIN: 22-0900560

Plan No: 002

Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Total that constitutes nonexempt prohibited transactions			Total fully corrected under the Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program ("VFCP") and Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2002-51
Participant contributions transferred late to the Plan	Check here if late participant loan repayments are included	Contributions not corrected	Contributions corrected outside VFCP	Contributions pending correction in VFCP	
<u>\$ 2,039</u>		<u>\$ 89</u>	<u>\$ 1,950</u>		

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

**COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 22-0900560

Plan No: 002

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	Columbia Financial, Inc.	Employer Common Stock	**	\$ 14,887,553
	Mutual Funds:			
	Vanguard	Vanguard Federal Money Market	**	7,288,819
*	Fidelity	Fidelity 500 Index Fund	**	7,505,428
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Capital & Income	**	1,216,623
*	Fidelity	Extended Market Index	**	2,637,687
*	Fidelity	Global Ex U.S. Index	**	535,279
*	Fidelity	Fidelity U.S. Bond Index	**	2,125,482
*	Fidelity	Fidelity GNMA Fund	**	553,191
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom Income	**	713,169
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2005	**	103,673
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2010	**	574,120
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2015	**	119,047
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2020	**	5,473,650
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2025	**	5,231,071
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2030	**	6,922,522
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2035	**	2,687,006
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2040	**	3,486,118
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2045	**	3,083,778
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2050	**	3,338,350
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2055	**	2,074,144
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2060	**	2,176,647
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2065	**	233,412
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Balanced	**	6,560,638
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Equity-Income	**	4,473,430
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Large Growth	**	1,638,002
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Blue Chip Growth	**	12,287,578
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Capital Appreciation	**	5,300,676
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Growth Company Fund	**	12,384,232
*	Fidelity	Fidelity OTC Portfolio	**	7,360,209
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Diversified International K6	**	2,466,286
	Pimco	Pimco Long-Term U.S. Government Fund	**	883,367
	Pimco	Pimco Real Return Instl	**	511,309
	Royce	Royce Pennsylvania Mutual Fund	**	1,149,399
	AB	AB Small Cap Growth Fund	**	942,582
	Vertus	Ceredex Mid-Cap Value Equity	**	474,006
	Parnassus	Parnassus Core Equity Fund	**	33,907
	Calvert	Calvert Bond Fund A	**	221,428
		Total mutual funds		114,766,265
*	Participant loans	Interest rates range from 4.00% to 10.50% with maturities through February 27, 2031	-	447,726
		Total assets held		<u>\$ 130,101,544</u>

* Party-in-interest

** Historical cost has not been presented since all investments are participant-directed.

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

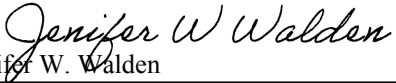
SIGNATURES

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual Report to be signed on the Plan's behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: June 21, 2024

Columbia Bank

Savings and Investment Plan


Jennifer W. Walden

Plan Administrator

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
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23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm - CohnReznick LLP
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Exhibit 23.1

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement (No. 333-226466) on Form S-8 of Columbia Financial of our report dated June 21, 2024, pertaining to the financial statements and supplemental schedules of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan appearing in this Annual Report on Form 11-K of the Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan for the year ended December 31, 2023.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

Parsippany, New Jersey

June 21, 2024

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

FORM 11-K

(Mark one)

- ☒ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023

or

- ☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Commission File Number: 001-38456

- A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan

- B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**Columbia Financial, Inc.
19-01 Route 208 North
Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410**

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Financial Statements and Schedules

December 31, 2023 and 2022
(With Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm)

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Plan Administrator, Plan Participants and Columbia Bank's Savings and Investment Committee
Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental Information

The supplemental information in the accompanying Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions (Schedule H, Line 4a) and Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) (Schedule H, Line 4i) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 has been subjected to the audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's 2023 financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2020.

Parsippany, New Jersey
June 21, 2024

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Assets:		
Investments:		
Employer common stock	\$ 14,887,553	\$ 20,368,498
Investment in mutual funds, at fair value (See Note 3)	114,766,265	95,040,527
Total investments	<u>129,653,818</u>	<u>115,409,025</u>
Receivables:		
Employee contributions receivable	1,343	138,288
Employer contributions receivable	3,079	66,951
Notes receivable from participants	447,726	339,838
Total receivables	<u>452,148</u>	<u>545,077</u>
Total assets	130,105,966	115,954,102
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 130,105,966</u>	<u>\$ 115,954,102</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions:

Investment income:	
Interest and dividends	\$ 2,744,324
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	17,738,674
Total investment income	20,482,998
Other income	302,772
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	26,983
Contributions:	
Employee	5,544,202
Rollovers	657,717
Employer, net of forfeitures	2,566,684
Total contributions	8,768,603
Total additions	29,581,356
Deductions:	
Benefits paid	15,417,459
Administrative expenses	12,033
Total deductions	15,429,492
Net increase in net assets	
	14,151,864
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	115,954,102
Net assets available for benefits at end of year	\$ 130,105,966

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan

The following description is provided for general information summary purposes. Participants of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan (the "Plan") should refer to the Summary Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

(a) General

The Plan is a participant-directed, defined contribution plan covering those employees of Columbia Bank and its subsidiaries (the "Bank") under the provisions of Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "IRC"), which includes a deferred arrangement as described in Section 401(k) of the IRC, for the benefit of eligible employees of the Bank. Participants are allowed to begin contributions to the Plan effective the first day of the month following their hire date. Contributions are deposited with and invested by Fidelity Management Trust Company ("FMTTC"), the trustee of the Plan, effective February 3, 2022, when the assets in the Plan were transferred from Newport Trust. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). The Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan Committee is responsible for the oversight of the Plan.

Effective May 1, 2022, the Adoption Agreement provides that each former employee of RSI Bancorp, MHC, RSI Bancorp, Inc. and RSI Bank (collectively "RSI Bank") who became employed by the Company in connection with the acquisition of RSI Bank by the Company shall have his or her service with RSI Bank prior to such acquisition taken into account hereunder for purposes of determining his or her vested interest to the same extent that such service would have been taken into account for such purpose had it been performed as an employee of the Bank.

Effective November 3, 2023, the Adoption Agreement provides that each former employee of Freehold Savings Bank who became employed by the Company in connection with the acquisition by the Columbia Financial, Inc. shall have his or her service with Freehold Savings Bank prior to such acquisition taken into account hereunder for purposes of determining his or her vested interest to the same extent that such service would have been taken into account for such purpose had it been performed as an employee of the Bank.

(b) Eligibility

Generally, all non-union full time, part time and temporary employees of the Bank with more than 1,000 hours of service are eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of the month following their hire date.

(c) Contributions

Participants may elect to make tax deferred contributions by payroll deduction at an annual amount of up to 60% of total pay up to a maximum amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), as defined in the Plan. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year and who are making deferral contributions to the Plan are eligible to make catch-up contributions of up to a maximum of \$7,500 for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Plan also allows Roth contributions. The Bank will contribute an amount on the participant's behalf equal to 100% of that portion of the participant's contribution of the first 3.00% for employees hired prior to October 1, 2018, and the first 4.50% of contributions for employees hired on or after October 1, 2018, generally, after six months of service. The participant may change the contribution percentage monthly, and any change in a participant's pay will automatically change the participant's and the Bank's contributions. The Bank's Board of Directors, if profits permit, may authorize that an additional contribution be made during the Plan year. There were no additional contributions made for the year ended December 31, 2023.

All new employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan 30 days after they first become eligible with an automatic participant contribution percentage of 4.50% of eligible compensation. After six months of service, they are entitled to the company match based on their contribution election with a maximum match of 4.50%. Enrolled participants may change their contribution rates at any time, including electing not to contribute to the Plan.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan (continued)

(d) *Participant Accounts*

Each participant's account is valued on a daily basis and credited with the participant's and the Bank's matching contributions, as well as allocations of net investment earnings or losses and administrative expenses. The allocations of employer contributions are based on both participant contributions and participant compensation, as defined in the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Participants are permitted to select among various investment alternatives offered within the Plan. Each alternative has separate investment objectives.

(e) *Vesting*

Participants are 100% vested immediately in their contributions and the earnings or losses thereon. Bank contributions and earnings or losses thereon generally vest 25% after two years of service, 50% after three years of service, 75% after four years of service, and 100% after five years of service. In addition, upon retirement at age 65 or later, or in the event of death or permanent disability, participants have a 100% vested interest in the Bank's contributions and the earnings or losses thereon. In the event of resignation or discharge prior to age 65, a participant who completed at least five years of service has a 100% vested interest in the Bank's contributions and earnings or losses thereon. Such vested interest is generally reduced by 25% for each year of service less than five years. Benefits are generally paid in the form of an annuity, lump-sum distribution, or installments.

(f) *Forfeitures*

Forfeitures of nonvested Bank contributions are used to reduce subsequent employer contributions. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the forfeited nonvested account totaled \$183,258 and \$40,959, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Bank's contribution was reduced by \$107,397 of forfeitures.

(g) *Notes Receivable from Participants*

In accordance with the Plan document, the minimum amount a participant can borrow is \$1,000. The maximum amount a participant can borrow is the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of the vested balance of their account. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. The rate of interest for the term of the loan will be established as of the loan date.

(h) *Payment of Benefits*

During employment, a participant may make withdrawals of amounts applicable to employee and vested employer contributions, subject to certain restrictions, as defined. Participants are entitled to withdraw funds upon attaining age 59½ or for financial hardship before that age. Participants may qualify for financial hardship withdrawals if they have an immediate and substantial financial need, as defined by the Plan document.

Upon termination of employment, a participant may leave their account with the Plan and defer commencement of receipt of their vested balance until April 1st of the calendar year following the calendar year in which they attain age 70½, except to the extent that their vested account balance as of the date of termination is less than \$1,000, in which case their interest in the Plan will be cashed out and payment forwarded to the participant. On termination of service due to death, the value of the entire account will be payable to the participant's beneficiary in the form of a lump-sum payment, or rollover to an individual retirement account or another qualified plan for a surviving spouse. For termination of service due to disability, a participant is entitled to the same withdrawal rights as if they had terminated their employment.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan (continued)

(i) *Hardship Withdrawals*

Under certain conditions, participants, while still employed by the Bank, are permitted to withdraw, in a single sum, the employee contribution portion of their account balance. These conditions include unreimbursed medical expenses, the purchase of a principal residence, the payment of post secondary education tuition or to prevent eviction from or foreclosure on a principal residence.

(j) *Administrative Costs*

Participants who take a loan from the Plan incur a one-time fee for establishing the loan as well as a quarterly loan administrative fee. These fees are charged directly to the individual participant's accounts. Significant administrative expenses of the Plan have been paid by the Bank. Such costs primarily relate to audit fees and use of Bank personnel to administer and account for the Plan.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following are the significant accounting policies followed by the Plan:

(a) *Basis of Accounting*

The Plan's financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, which is in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP").

(b) *Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires the Plan administrator to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(c) *Investment Valuation*

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

(d) *Notes Receivable from Participants*

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document. As of December 31, 2023, interest rates charged on participant loans ranged between 4.00% and 10.50%, with maturities through February 27, 2031. As of December 31, 2022, interest rates charged on participant loans ranged between 4.00% and 8.25%, with maturities through February 27, 2031. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(e) *Risks and Uncertainties*

The Plan invests in various investment securities, including mutual funds and common stock of Columbia Financial, Inc., the parent company of the Bank. These investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

The Plan's exposure to a concentration of credit risk is limited by the diversification of investments across various participant-directed fund elections. Additionally, the investments within each participant-directed fund election are further diversified into varied financial instruments, with the exception of the common stock fund of the parent company of the Bank.

(f) *Income Recognition*

Purchases and sales of investments, and related realized gains and losses, are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

(g) *Payment of Benefits*

Benefit payments are recorded when paid.

(3) Fair Value Measurements

The Plan measures its investments at fair value on a recurring basis in accordance with U.S. GAAP, which establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair values:

- Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that are accessible on the measurement date.
- Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These might include quoted prices for similar instruments in markets that are active or not active, or inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially for the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3 - Prices or valuation techniques that require unobservable inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable (i.e., supported by minimal or no market activity). Valuation techniques include the use of option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(3) Fair Value Measurements (continued)

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investment assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

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(4) Plan Termination

The Bank has not expressed any intention to discontinue the Plan; however, it has the right under the Plan to terminate or discontinue its contributions to the Plan at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, Plan participants will become 100% vested in their Bank contribution accounts and are entitled to full distribution of such amounts.

(5) Tax Status

The Company adopted a nonstandardized volume submitter profit sharing plan with the Cash or Deferred Arrangement (CODA) sponsored by Newport Group Inc. An opinion letter dated March 31, 2014 was received from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") as to the prototype plan's qualified status. Although the prototype plan and the Plan have been amended since the issuance of the IRS determination letter, the Plan administrator believes the Plan is designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IRC and is relying on this opinion letter. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(5) Tax Status (continued)

U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability, or asset, if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. Plan management has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability, or asset, or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by federal and New Jersey tax jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

(6) Related-Party Transactions and Exempt Party-in-Interest Transactions

The Plan owns 772,118 and 942,066 shares of Columbia Financial, Inc. common stock as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. During 2023, the Plan purchased 21,751 shares of stock at an aggregate cost of \$383,616 and sold 191,699 shares of stock for total proceeds of \$4,032,458. The Bank pays for fees for accounting and the administrative services. Additionally, certain employees and officers of the Bank, who are also participants in the Plan, perform administrative services for the Plan at no cost. Fees paid by the Plan for the investment management services are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments. Notes receivable from participants held by the Plan also reflect party-in-interest transactions.

Certain Plan investments were invested in funds managed by FMTC. FMTC is the trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

The plan has an agreement with the FMTC, whereby FMTC provides the Plan a reimbursement of certain expenses charged to the Plan by the Plan's investments, as defined in the agreement. The amounts received from the trustee may be utilized to pay Plan administrative expenses and may also be allocated to participants that have an account balance as of a certain date at the discretion of the Company. At December 31, 2023, the arrangement resulted in other income of \$302,772.

(7) Nonexempt Transactions

As reported on the supplemental Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions (Schedule H, Line 4a), certain Plan contributions for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2023 were not remitted to the trust within the time frame specified by the Department of Labor's Regulation 29 CFR 2510.3-102, thus constituting nonexempt transactions between the Plan and the Company. In 2023, the \$946 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2021 were corrected, \$1,004 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023 were corrected, and \$89 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023 were uncorrected.

(8) Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated events and transactions from December 31, 2023 through June 21, 2024, the date these financial statements were issued.

On May 1, 2024, the Bank completed the transfer of the Freehold Savings Bank 401(k) Plan assets into the Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan.

**COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions

EIN: 22-0900560

Plan No: 002

Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Total that constitutes nonexempt prohibited transactions			Total fully corrected under the Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program ("VFCP") and Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2002-51
Participant contributions transferred late to the Plan	Check here if late participant loan repayments are included	Contributions not corrected	Contributions corrected outside VFCP	Contributions pending correction in VFCP	
<u>\$ 2,039</u>		<u>\$ 89</u>	<u>\$ 1,950</u>		

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

**COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 22-0900560

Plan No: 002

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	Columbia Financial, Inc.	Employer Common Stock	**	\$ 14,887,553
	Mutual Funds:			
	Vanguard	Vanguard Federal Money Market	**	7,288,819
*	Fidelity	Fidelity 500 Index Fund	**	7,505,428
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Capital & Income	**	1,216,623
*	Fidelity	Extended Market Index	**	2,637,687
*	Fidelity	Global Ex U.S. Index	**	535,279
*	Fidelity	Fidelity U.S. Bond Index	**	2,125,482
*	Fidelity	Fidelity GNMA Fund	**	553,191
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom Income	**	713,169
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2005	**	103,673
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2010	**	574,120
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2015	**	119,047
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2020	**	5,473,650
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2025	**	5,231,071
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2030	**	6,922,522
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2035	**	2,687,006
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2040	**	3,486,118
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2045	**	3,083,778
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2050	**	3,338,350
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2055	**	2,074,144
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2060	**	2,176,647
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2065	**	233,412
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Balanced	**	6,560,638
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Equity-Income	**	4,473,430
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Large Growth	**	1,638,002
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Blue Chip Growth	**	12,287,578
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Capital Appreciation	**	5,300,676
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Growth Company Fund	**	12,384,232
*	Fidelity	Fidelity OTC Portfolio	**	7,360,209
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Diversified International K6	**	2,466,286
	Pimco	Pimco Long-Term U.S. Government Fund	**	883,367
	Pimco	Pimco Real Return Instl	**	511,309
	Royce	Royce Pennsylvania Mutual Fund	**	1,149,399
	AB	AB Small Cap Growth Fund	**	942,582
	Vertus	Ceredex Mid-Cap Value Equity	**	474,006
	Parnassus	Parnassus Core Equity Fund	**	33,907
	Calvert	Calvert Bond Fund A	**	221,428
		Total mutual funds		114,766,265
*	Participant loans	Interest rates range from 4.00% to 10.50% with maturities through February 27, 2031	-	447,726
		Total assets held		<u>\$ 130,101,544</u>

* Party-in-interest

** Historical cost has not been presented since all investments are participant-directed.

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

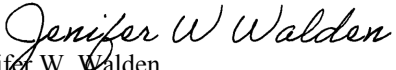
SIGNATURES

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual Report to be signed on the Plan's behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: June 21, 2024

Columbia Bank

Savings and Investment Plan


Jennifer W. Walden

Plan Administrator

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
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23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm - CohnReznick LLP
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Exhibit 23.1

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement (No. 333-226466) on Form S-8 of Columbia Financial of our report dated June 21, 2024, pertaining to the financial statements and supplemental schedules of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan appearing in this Annual Report on Form 11-K of the Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan for the year ended December 31, 2023.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

Parsippany, New Jersey

June 21, 2024

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

FORM 11-K

(Mark one)

- ☒ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023

or

- ☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Commission File Number: 001-38456

- A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan

- B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**Columbia Financial, Inc.
19-01 Route 208 North
Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410**

**COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Financial Statements and Schedules

December 31, 2023 and 2022
(With Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm)

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Plan Administrator, Plan Participants and Columbia Bank's Savings and Investment Committee
Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental Information

The supplemental information in the accompanying Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions (Schedule H, Line 4a) and Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) (Schedule H, Line 4i) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 has been subjected to the audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's 2023 financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2020.

Parsippany, New Jersey
June 21, 2024

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Assets:		
Investments:		
Employer common stock	\$ 14,887,553	\$ 20,368,498
Investment in mutual funds, at fair value (See Note 3)	114,766,265	95,040,527
Total investments	<u>129,653,818</u>	<u>115,409,025</u>
Receivables:		
Employee contributions receivable	1,343	138,288
Employer contributions receivable	3,079	66,951
Notes receivable from participants	447,726	339,838
Total receivables	<u>452,148</u>	<u>545,077</u>
Total assets	130,105,966	115,954,102
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 130,105,966</u>	<u>\$ 115,954,102</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions:

Investment income:	
Interest and dividends	\$ 2,744,324
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	17,738,674
Total investment income	20,482,998
Other income	302,772
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	26,983
Contributions:	
Employee	5,544,202
Rollovers	657,717
Employer, net of forfeitures	2,566,684
Total contributions	8,768,603
Total additions	29,581,356
Deductions:	
Benefits paid	15,417,459
Administrative expenses	12,033
Total deductions	15,429,492
Net increase in net assets	
	14,151,864
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	115,954,102
Net assets available for benefits at end of year	\$ 130,105,966

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan

The following description is provided for general information summary purposes. Participants of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan (the "Plan") should refer to the Summary Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

(a) General

The Plan is a participant-directed, defined contribution plan covering those employees of Columbia Bank and its subsidiaries (the "Bank") under the provisions of Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "IRC"), which includes a deferred arrangement as described in Section 401(k) of the IRC, for the benefit of eligible employees of the Bank. Participants are allowed to begin contributions to the Plan effective the first day of the month following their hire date. Contributions are deposited with and invested by Fidelity Management Trust Company ("FMTTC"), the trustee of the Plan, effective February 3, 2022, when the assets in the Plan were transferred from Newport Trust. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). The Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan Committee is responsible for the oversight of the Plan.

Effective May 1, 2022, the Adoption Agreement provides that each former employee of RSI Bancorp, MHC, RSI Bancorp, Inc. and RSI Bank (collectively "RSI Bank") who became employed by the Company in connection with the acquisition of RSI Bank by the Company shall have his or her service with RSI Bank prior to such acquisition taken into account hereunder for purposes of determining his or her vested interest to the same extent that such service would have been taken into account for such purpose had it been performed as an employee of the Bank.

Effective November 3, 2023, the Adoption Agreement provides that each former employee of Freehold Savings Bank who became employed by the Company in connection with the acquisition by the Columbia Financial, Inc. shall have his or her service with Freehold Savings Bank prior to such acquisition taken into account hereunder for purposes of determining his or her vested interest to the same extent that such service would have been taken into account for such purpose had it been performed as an employee of the Bank.

(b) Eligibility

Generally, all non-union full time, part time and temporary employees of the Bank with more than 1,000 hours of service are eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of the month following their hire date.

(c) Contributions

Participants may elect to make tax deferred contributions by payroll deduction at an annual amount of up to 60% of total pay up to a maximum amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), as defined in the Plan. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year and who are making deferral contributions to the Plan are eligible to make catch-up contributions of up to a maximum of \$7,500 for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Plan also allows Roth contributions. The Bank will contribute an amount on the participant's behalf equal to 100% of that portion of the participant's contribution of the first 3.00% for employees hired prior to October 1, 2018, and the first 4.50% of contributions for employees hired on or after October 1, 2018, generally, after six months of service. The participant may change the contribution percentage monthly, and any change in a participant's pay will automatically change the participant's and the Bank's contributions. The Bank's Board of Directors, if profits permit, may authorize that an additional contribution be made during the Plan year. There were no additional contributions made for the year ended December 31, 2023.

All new employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan 30 days after they first become eligible with an automatic participant contribution percentage of 4.50% of eligible compensation. After six months of service, they are entitled to the company match based on their contribution election with a maximum match of 4.50%. Enrolled participants may change their contribution rates at any time, including electing not to contribute to the Plan.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan (continued)

(d) *Participant Accounts*

Each participant's account is valued on a daily basis and credited with the participant's and the Bank's matching contributions, as well as allocations of net investment earnings or losses and administrative expenses. The allocations of employer contributions are based on both participant contributions and participant compensation, as defined in the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Participants are permitted to select among various investment alternatives offered within the Plan. Each alternative has separate investment objectives.

(e) *Vesting*

Participants are 100% vested immediately in their contributions and the earnings or losses thereon. Bank contributions and earnings or losses thereon generally vest 25% after two years of service, 50% after three years of service, 75% after four years of service, and 100% after five years of service. In addition, upon retirement at age 65 or later, or in the event of death or permanent disability, participants have a 100% vested interest in the Bank's contributions and the earnings or losses thereon. In the event of resignation or discharge prior to age 65, a participant who completed at least five years of service has a 100% vested interest in the Bank's contributions and earnings or losses thereon. Such vested interest is generally reduced by 25% for each year of service less than five years. Benefits are generally paid in the form of an annuity, lump-sum distribution, or installments.

(f) *Forfeitures*

Forfeitures of nonvested Bank contributions are used to reduce subsequent employer contributions. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the forfeited nonvested account totaled \$183,258 and \$40,959, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Bank's contribution was reduced by \$107,397 of forfeitures.

(g) *Notes Receivable from Participants*

In accordance with the Plan document, the minimum amount a participant can borrow is \$1,000. The maximum amount a participant can borrow is the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of the vested balance of their account. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. The rate of interest for the term of the loan will be established as of the loan date.

(h) *Payment of Benefits*

During employment, a participant may make withdrawals of amounts applicable to employee and vested employer contributions, subject to certain restrictions, as defined. Participants are entitled to withdraw funds upon attaining age 59½ or for financial hardship before that age. Participants may qualify for financial hardship withdrawals if they have an immediate and substantial financial need, as defined by the Plan document.

Upon termination of employment, a participant may leave their account with the Plan and defer commencement of receipt of their vested balance until April 1st of the calendar year following the calendar year in which they attain age 70½, except to the extent that their vested account balance as of the date of termination is less than \$1,000, in which case their interest in the Plan will be cashed out and payment forwarded to the participant. On termination of service due to death, the value of the entire account will be payable to the participant's beneficiary in the form of a lump-sum payment, or rollover to an individual retirement account or another qualified plan for a surviving spouse. For termination of service due to disability, a participant is entitled to the same withdrawal rights as if they had terminated their employment.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(1) Description of Plan (continued)

(i) *Hardship Withdrawals*

Under certain conditions, participants, while still employed by the Bank, are permitted to withdraw, in a single sum, the employee contribution portion of their account balance. These conditions include unreimbursed medical expenses, the purchase of a principal residence, the payment of post secondary education tuition or to prevent eviction from or foreclosure on a principal residence.

(j) *Administrative Costs*

Participants who take a loan from the Plan incur a one-time fee for establishing the loan as well as a quarterly loan administrative fee. These fees are charged directly to the individual participant's accounts. Significant administrative expenses of the Plan have been paid by the Bank. Such costs primarily relate to audit fees and use of Bank personnel to administer and account for the Plan.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following are the significant accounting policies followed by the Plan:

(a) *Basis of Accounting*

The Plan's financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, which is in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP").

(b) *Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires the Plan administrator to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(c) *Investment Valuation*

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

(d) *Notes Receivable from Participants*

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document. As of December 31, 2023, interest rates charged on participant loans ranged between 4.00% and 10.50%, with maturities through February 27, 2031. As of December 31, 2022, interest rates charged on participant loans ranged between 4.00% and 8.25%, with maturities through February 27, 2031. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(e) *Risks and Uncertainties*

The Plan invests in various investment securities, including mutual funds and common stock of Columbia Financial, Inc., the parent company of the Bank. These investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

The Plan's exposure to a concentration of credit risk is limited by the diversification of investments across various participant-directed fund elections. Additionally, the investments within each participant-directed fund election are further diversified into varied financial instruments, with the exception of the common stock fund of the parent company of the Bank.

(f) *Income Recognition*

Purchases and sales of investments, and related realized gains and losses, are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

(g) *Payment of Benefits*

Benefit payments are recorded when paid.

(3) Fair Value Measurements

The Plan measures its investments at fair value on a recurring basis in accordance with U.S. GAAP, which establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair values:

- Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that are accessible on the measurement date.
- Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These might include quoted prices for similar instruments in markets that are active or not active, or inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially for the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3 - Prices or valuation techniques that require unobservable inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable (i.e., supported by minimal or no market activity). Valuation techniques include the use of option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(3) Fair Value Measurements (continued)

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investment assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

December 31, 2023				
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stock	\$ 14,887,553	\$ 14,887,553	\$ —	\$ —
Mutual funds	114,766,265	114,766,265	—	—
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 129,653,818</u>	<u>\$ 129,653,818</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

December 31, 2022				
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stock	\$ 20,368,498	\$ 20,368,498	\$ —	\$ —
Mutual funds	95,040,527	95,040,527	—	—
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 115,409,025</u>	<u>\$ 115,409,025</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value.

- Common stock is valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which individual securities are traded.
- Mutual funds are measured based on exchange quoted prices available in active markets.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan's management believes the valuation methodologies are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain investments could result in different fair value measurement at the reporting date. There have been no changes in methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no significant transfers between levels.

(4) Plan Termination

The Bank has not expressed any intention to discontinue the Plan; however, it has the right under the Plan to terminate or discontinue its contributions to the Plan at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, Plan participants will become 100% vested in their Bank contribution accounts and are entitled to full distribution of such amounts.

(5) Tax Status

The Company adopted a nonstandardized volume submitter profit sharing plan with the Cash or Deferred Arrangement (CODA) sponsored by Newport Group Inc. An opinion letter dated March 31, 2014 was received from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") as to the prototype plan's qualified status. Although the prototype plan and the Plan have been amended since the issuance of the IRS determination letter, the Plan administrator believes the Plan is designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IRC and is relying on this opinion letter. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

(5) Tax Status (continued)

U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability, or asset, if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. Plan management has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability, or asset, or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by federal and New Jersey tax jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

(6) Related-Party Transactions and Exempt Party-in-Interest Transactions

The Plan owns 772,118 and 942,066 shares of Columbia Financial, Inc. common stock as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. During 2023, the Plan purchased 21,751 shares of stock at an aggregate cost of \$383,616 and sold 191,699 shares of stock for total proceeds of \$4,032,458. The Bank pays for fees for accounting and the administrative services. Additionally, certain employees and officers of the Bank, who are also participants in the Plan, perform administrative services for the Plan at no cost. Fees paid by the Plan for the investment management services are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments. Notes receivable from participants held by the Plan also reflect party-in-interest transactions.

Certain Plan investments were invested in funds managed by FMTC. FMTC is the trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

The plan has an agreement with the FMTC, whereby FMTC provides the Plan a reimbursement of certain expenses charged to the Plan by the Plan's investments, as defined in the agreement. The amounts received from the trustee may be utilized to pay Plan administrative expenses and may also be allocated to participants that have an account balance as of a certain date at the discretion of the Company. At December 31, 2023, the arrangement resulted in other income of \$302,772.

(7) Nonexempt Transactions

As reported on the supplemental Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions (Schedule H, Line 4a), certain Plan contributions for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2023 were not remitted to the trust within the time frame specified by the Department of Labor's Regulation 29 CFR 2510.3-102, thus constituting nonexempt transactions between the Plan and the Company. In 2023, the \$946 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2021 were corrected, \$1,004 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023 were corrected, and \$89 in delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023 were uncorrected.

(8) Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated events and transactions from December 31, 2023 through June 21, 2024, the date these financial statements were issued.

On May 1, 2024, the Bank completed the transfer of the Freehold Savings Bank 401(k) Plan assets into the Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan.

**COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions

EIN: 22-0900560

Plan No: 002

Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Total that constitutes nonexempt prohibited transactions			Total fully corrected under the Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program ("VFCP") and Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2002-51
Participant contributions transferred late to the Plan	Check here if late participant loan repayments are included	Contributions not corrected	Contributions corrected outside VFCP	Contributions pending correction in VFCP	
<u>\$ 2,039</u>		<u>\$ 89</u>	<u>\$ 1,950</u>		

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

**COLUMBIA BANK
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 22-0900560

Plan No: 002

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	Columbia Financial, Inc.	Employer Common Stock	**	\$ 14,887,553
	Mutual Funds:			
	Vanguard	Vanguard Federal Money Market	**	7,288,819
*	Fidelity	Fidelity 500 Index Fund	**	7,505,428
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Capital & Income	**	1,216,623
*	Fidelity	Extended Market Index	**	2,637,687
*	Fidelity	Global Ex U.S. Index	**	535,279
*	Fidelity	Fidelity U.S. Bond Index	**	2,125,482
*	Fidelity	Fidelity GNMA Fund	**	553,191
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom Income	**	713,169
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2005	**	103,673
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2010	**	574,120
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2015	**	119,047
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2020	**	5,473,650
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2025	**	5,231,071
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2030	**	6,922,522
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2035	**	2,687,006
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2040	**	3,486,118
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2045	**	3,083,778
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2050	**	3,338,350
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2055	**	2,074,144
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2060	**	2,176,647
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Freedom 2065	**	233,412
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Balanced	**	6,560,638
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Equity-Income	**	4,473,430
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Large Growth	**	1,638,002
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Blue Chip Growth	**	12,287,578
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Capital Appreciation	**	5,300,676
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Growth Company Fund	**	12,384,232
*	Fidelity	Fidelity OTC Portfolio	**	7,360,209
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Diversified International K6	**	2,466,286
	Pimco	Pimco Long-Term U.S. Government Fund	**	883,367
	Pimco	Pimco Real Return Instl	**	511,309
	Royce	Royce Pennsylvania Mutual Fund	**	1,149,399
	AB	AB Small Cap Growth Fund	**	942,582
	Vertus	Ceredex Mid-Cap Value Equity	**	474,006
	Parnassus	Parnassus Core Equity Fund	**	33,907
	Calvert	Calvert Bond Fund A	**	221,428
		Total mutual funds		114,766,265
*	Participant loans	Interest rates range from 4.00% to 10.50% with maturities through February 27, 2031	-	447,726
		Total assets held		<u>\$ 130,101,544</u>

* Party-in-interest

** Historical cost has not been presented since all investments are participant-directed.

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

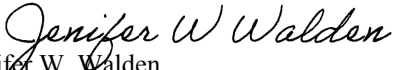
SIGNATURES

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual Report to be signed on the Plan's behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: June 21, 2024

Columbia Bank

Savings and Investment Plan


Jennifer W. Walden

Plan Administrator

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
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23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm - CohnReznick LLP
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Exhibit 23.1

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement (No. 333-226466) on Form S-8 of Columbia Financial of our report dated June 21, 2024, pertaining to the financial statements and supplemental schedules of Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan appearing in this Annual Report on Form 11-K of the Columbia Bank Savings and Investment Plan for the year ended December 31, 2023.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

Parsippany, New Jersey

June 21, 2024