

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Knutson Craig L</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC.</u> <u>350 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR</u>  (Street) <u>NEW YORK, NY 10022</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [ MFA ]</u>  3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>07/01/2013</u>  4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Vice President</u>  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	07/01/2013		F <sup>(4)</sup>		4,193	D	\$8.54	301,872	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Phantom Shares	(1)	07/01/2013		A		8,325		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	8,325	\$0	131,742	D	
Phantom Shares	(1)	07/01/2013		A		16,675		(3)	(3)	Common Stock	16,675	\$0	148,417	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Each phantom share represents the right to receive one share of MFA Financial, Inc. common stock.
2. One-third of these phantom shares are scheduled to vest, subject to forfeiture, on each of June 30, 2014, 2015 and 2016, and thereafter will be settled in an equivalent number of shares of MFA common stock within 30 days of each respective vesting date.
3. One-third of these phantom shares are scheduled to vest, subject to forfeiture, on each of June 30, 2014, 2015 and 2016 (subject, in each case, to MFA's achievement of specified performance goals), and thereafter will be settled in an equivalent number of shares of MFA common stock within 30 days of each respective vesting date.
4. The reported disposition represents the surrender of shares to satisfy tax obligations arising from the vesting of one or more previously granted restricted stock awards.

Remarks:

/s/Craig L. Knutson 07/03/2013  
\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.  
\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).  
\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).  
Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.  
Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.