

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>07/15/2013</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 X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Vice President</u> 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X 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	07/15/2013		M ⁽¹⁾		16,500	A	\$0 ⁽²⁾	318,372	D	
Common Stock	07/15/2013		F ⁽³⁾		7,756	D	\$8.13	310,616	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	(4)	07/15/2013		M ⁽⁴⁾			5,494	07/15/2013	07/15/2013	Common Stock	5,494	(4)	142,923	D	
Phantom Shares	(5)	07/15/2013		M ⁽⁵⁾			11,006	07/15/2013	07/15/2013	Common Stock	11,006	(5)	131,917	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- Settlement of phantom shares.
- Each phantom share is the economic equivalent of one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc. Each vested phantom share was settled in one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc.
- The reported disposition represents the surrender of shares to satisfy tax obligations arising from the settlement of phantom shares.
- Settlement of vested portion of time-based phantom shares granted in each of July 2011 and July 2012. Each phantom share is the economic equivalent of one share of MFA Financial, Inc. common stock of MFA Financial, Inc. Each vested phantom share was settled in one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc.
- Settlement of vested portion of performance-based phantom shares granted in each of July 2011 and July 2012. Each phantom share is the economic equivalent of one share of MFA Financial, Inc. common stock of MFA Financial, Inc. Each vested phantom share was settled in one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc.

Remarks:

/s/Craig L. Knutson

07/15/2013

** 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.

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