

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Estimated average burden  
hours per response: 0.5

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*<br><u>Knutson Craig L</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><u>C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC.</u><br><u>350 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR</u><br><br>(Street)<br><u>NEW YORK</u> <u>NY</u> <u>10022</u><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>MFA FINANCIAL, INC.</u> [ <u>MFA</u> ]<br><br>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><u>12/31/2016</u><br><br>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br>Director 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><u>President and COO</u><br><br>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
|---|---|---|

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         |   |  |   |
| <u>Common Stock</u>             | <u>12/31/2016</u>                    |  | <u>F</u>                       |   | <u>2,040<sup>(1)</sup></u>  | <u>D</u>   | <u>\$7.63</u> | <u>570,755</u>  | <u>D</u>   |   |

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 |  |  |   |  |

Explanation of Responses:

1. The reported disposition represents the surrender of shares to satisfy tax obligations arising from the vesting of restricted stock that was previously granted to the Reporting Person.

/s/ Craig L. Knutson 01/04/2016  
\*\* 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.