

FORM 3**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIESFiled pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB Number:	3235-0104
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>FINKEL SHIRA E</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC.</u> <u>350 PARK AVENUE, 21ST FLOOR</u> (Street) <u>NEW YORK NY 10022</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/16/2010</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [MFA]</u> 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Senior Vice President</u> 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 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 Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	11,719	D	
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	3,250	I	By 401(k) Plan

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Stock Option	10/01/2003	10/01/2013	Common Stock	7,500	10.25	D	
Phantom Share ⁽¹⁾	(2)	(2)	Common Stock	6,366	0	D	
Phantom Share ⁽¹⁾	(3)	(3)	Common Stock	18,500	0	D	
Phantom Share ⁽¹⁾	(4)	(4)	Common Stock	9,250	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- Each phantom share is the economic equivalent of one share of MFA's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.
- These phantom shares shall no longer be subject to forfeiture on December 31, 2010 and, thereafter, are payable on the earlier of termination of service with MFA or January 1, 2013.
- These phantom shares shall no longer be subject to forfeiture on December 31, 2014 and, thereafter, are payable on the earlier of termination of service with MFA or January 4, 2016.
- These phantom shares shall no longer be subject to forfeiture on December 31, 2014 (subject to MFA's achievement of specified performance goals) and, thereafter, are payable on the earlier of termination of service with MFA or January 4, 2016.

Remarks:Shira Finkel12/22/2010

** 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 5 (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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

FOR SEC FILINGS ON FORMS ID, 3, 4, 5 AND 144
IN RESPECT OF SECURITIES OF
MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Timothy W. Korth, Stephen Yarad and Teresa D. Covello or any one of them acting alone, as her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution for her in her name and stead in any and all capacities, to sign and file for and on her behalf, in respect of any acquisition, disposition or other change in ownership of any shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of MFA Financial, Inc. (the "Company"), the following:

- (i) any Form ID to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC");
 - (ii) any Initial Statement of Beneficial Ownership of Securities on Form 3 to be filed with the SEC;
 - (iii) any Statement of Changes of Beneficial Ownership of Securities on Form 4 to be filed with the SEC;
 - (iv) any Annual Statement of Beneficial Ownership of Securities on Form 5 to be filed with the SEC;
 - (v) any Notice of Proposed Sale of Securities on Form 144 to be filed with the SEC;
- and
- (vi) any and all agreements, certificates, receipts, or other documents in connection therewith.

The undersigned hereby gives full power and authority to the attorney-in-fact to seek and obtain as the undersigned's representative and on the undersigned's behalf, information on transactions in the Company's securities from any third party, including brokers, employee benefit plan administrators and trustees, and the undersigned hereby authorizes any such person to release such information to the undersigned and approves and ratifies any such release of information.

The undersigned hereby grants unto such attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary in connection with such matters and hereby ratifies and confirms all that any such attorney-in-fact and agent or substitute may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

The undersigned acknowledges that:

(i) neither the Company nor such attorney-in-fact assumes (i) any liability for the undersigned's responsibility to comply with the requirement of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), (ii) any liability of the undersigned for any failure to comply with such requirements or (iii) any obligation or liability of the undersigned for profit disgorgement under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act; and

(ii) this Power of Attorney does not relieve the undersigned from responsibility for compliance with the undersigned's obligations under the Exchange Act, including without limitation the reporting requirements under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to such attorney-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Power of Attorney.

Date: December 16, 2010 /s/Shira Finkel

Name: Shira Finkel