

Schwartz Harold E
 Form 4
 December 19, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Schwartz Harold E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [MFA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC., 350
 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 12/14/2012

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GC

NEW YORK, NY 10022

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount (A) or (D) Price | | |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share | 12/14/2012 | | A | | 6,902 A \$ 0 | 14,920 | D |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share | 12/15/2012 | | F | | 512 ⁽¹⁾ D \$ 8.12 | 14,408 | D |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share | 12/14/2012 | | F | | 698 ⁽¹⁾ D \$ 8.12 | 13,710 | D |

