SEC Form 4

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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* Knutson Craig L	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		

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
07/01/2011

	Director		10% Owner
X	Officer (give title below)		Other (specify below)

Executive Vice President

(Street)		
NEW YORK	NY	10022
(City)	(State)	(Zip)

4. 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

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, par value $0.01 per share	08/05/2011		P		4,000	A	$7.2	184,260	I	By 401(k)

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 Share	(1)	07/01/2011		A		8,325		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	8,325	$0	90,075	D	
Phantom Share	(1)	07/01/2011		A		16,675		(3)	(3)	Common Stock	16,675	$0	106,750	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Each phantom share is the economic equivalent of one share of MFA's common stock, par value $0.01 per share.

2. These phantom shares are subject to forfeiture until June 30, 2014. One-third of these phantom shares shall vest on each of June 30, 2012, June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2014, and thereafter, are payable within 30 days of the date such phantom shares vest.

3. These phantom shares are subject to forfeiture until June 30, 2014. One-third of these phantom shares shall vest on each of June 30, 2012, June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2014 (subject, in each case, to MFA's achievement of specified performance goals), and thereafter, are payable within 30 days of the date such phantom shares vest.

Remarks:

/s/Craig L. Knutson   08/08/2011
** 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.