

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

Form 4

January 05, 2016

**FORM 4****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

## OMB APPROVAL

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response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Knutson Craig L

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC., 350  
PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10022

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/31/2015

4. If Amendment, Date 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)

President and COO

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<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired<br>(A) or Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Common<br>Stock                       | 12/31/2015                              |                                                             | F <sup>(1)</sup>                     | 4,222 D                                                                 | \$ 6.6 463,027                                                                                                     | D                                                                    |                                         |
| Common<br>Stock                       | 01/04/2016                              |                                                             | M <sup>(2)</sup>                     | 54,500 A                                                                | \$ 0<br>(3) 517,527                                                                                                | D                                                                    |                                         |
| Common<br>Stock                       | 01/04/2016                              |                                                             | M <sup>(2)</sup>                     | 27,250 A                                                                | \$ 0<br>(3) 544,777                                                                                                | D                                                                    |                                         |
| Common<br>Stock                       | 01/04/2016                              |                                                             | F <sup>(4)</sup>                     | 28,303 D                                                                | \$ 6.75 516,474                                                                                                    | D                                                                    |                                         |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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 control number.

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(9-02)

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

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired (A)<br>or Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Underlying Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                     |                                                                    |                                         |                                                             | Code                                 | V (A) (D)                                                                                                    | Date<br>Exercisable<br>Expiration<br>Date                      | Title<br>Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares                        |
| Phantom<br>Shares                                   | <u>(S)</u>                                                         | 01/04/2016                              |                                                             | M <u>(5)</u>                         | 54,500                                                                                                       | 01/04/2016 01/04/2016                                          | Common<br>Stock 54,500                                              |
| Phantom<br>Shares                                   | <u>(S)</u>                                                         | 01/04/2016                              |                                                             | M <u>(5)</u>                         | 27,250                                                                                                       | 01/04/2016 01/04/2016                                          | Common<br>Stock 27,250                                              |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                                                  | Relationships                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                                                                 | Director 10% Owner Officer Other |
| Knutson Craig L<br>C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC.<br>350 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10022 | President and COO                |

## Signatures

/s/ Craig L.  
Knutson 01/05/2016

\*\*Signature of  
Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* 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).
- (1) The reported disposition represents the surrender of shares to satisfy tax obligations arising from the vesting of restricted stock previously granted to the Reporting Person.
- (2) Shares acquired pursuant to the settlement of restricted stock units (i.e., phantom stock) granted to the Reporting Person in December 2010.
- (3) Each phantom share is the economic equivalent of one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc. Each phantom share was settled in one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc.

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- (4) The reported disposition represents the surrender of shares to satisfy tax obligations arising from the settlement of phantom shares described in Note 2 above.

- Settlement of time-based and performance-based phantom shares granted to the Reporting Person in December 2010. Each phantom share
- (5) is the economic equivalent of one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc. Each phantom share was settled in one share of common stock of MFA Financial, Inc.

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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