Ford Elwin A
Form 4
December 19, 2012

## FORM 4

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

| | OMB APPROVAL |
|---|---|
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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 *<br>Ford Elwin A | 2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol<br>**MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [MFA]** | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer |
|---|---|---|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>12/19/2012 | (Check all applicable)<br>_____ Director _____ 10% Owner<br>__X__ Officer (give title _____ Other (specify below) below)<br>SVP |
| C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC., 350 PARK AVENUE 20TH FLOOR | | |
| (Street) | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)<br>_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| NEW YORK, NY 10022 | | |
| (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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE $0.01 PER SHARE | 12/14/2012 | | A | | 3,620 | A | $ 0 | 7,238 | D | |
| COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE $0.01 PER SHARE | 12/14/2012 | | F | | 343 [(1)] | D | $ 8.12 | 6,895 | D | |

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| COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE $0.01 PER SHARE | 12/15/2012 | F | 341 [(1)] D | $8.12 | 6,554 | D |

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

**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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | |
| | | | | Code V (A) (D) | | | | | | | |

# Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Ford Elwin A C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC. 350 PARK AVENUE 20TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022 | | | SVP | |

# Signatures

| ELWIN FORD | 12/19/2012 |
|---|---|
| **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.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

Explanation of Responses:                                                                                                    3