

DISTASO DAVID MICHAEL
 Form 4
 February 22, 2010

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 DISTASO DAVID MICHAEL

(Last) (First) (Middle)

1114 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, 39TH FLOOR

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10036

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 ISTAR FINANCIAL INC [SFI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/17/2010

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 CHIEF ACCOUNTING OFFICER

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Restricted Stock Units | 02/17/2010 | | P | (A) or (D) Price 8,919 (1) A \$ 0 | 40,512 (2) (3) | D | |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

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| 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. Nu Deriv Secur Benef Own Follo Repor Trans (Instr |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|

| Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|
|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| DISTASO DAVID MICHAEL 1114 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS 39TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10036 | | | CHIEF ACCOUNTING OFFICER | |

Signatures

s/ David M.
DiStaso 02/20/2010

**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) On February 17, 2010, the Compensation Committee of iStar Financial Inc.'s Board of Directors approved an incentive award to the Reporting Person in the amount of 8,919 Restricted Stock Units (Units). The Units represent the right to receive an equivalent number of shares of iStar common stock (net of shares deducted for applicable taxes and other withholdings) if and when the Units vest. These Units will cliff vest on February 17, 2012 if vesting conditions, including the Reporting Person's continued employment, are satisfied.
- (2) Following this award, the Reporting Person owns a total of 40,512 Restricted Stock Units, representing the right to receive an equivalent number of shares of iStar common stock (net of shares deducted for applicable taxes and other withholdings) if and when the Units vest in accordance with the terms of the agreements for the Units.
- (3) In addition to these Restricted Stock Units, the Reporting Person is the beneficial owner of a total of 386 shares of iStar common stock, all of which are owned directly.

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.