

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| OMB APPROVAL                                 |           |
|--|-----------|
| OMB Number:                                  | 3235-0287 |
| Estimated average burden hours per response: | 0.5       |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><u>DISTASO DAVID MICHAEL</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><u>C/O ISTAR FINANCIAL</u><br><u>1114 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS 39TH FLOOR</u><br><br>(Street)<br><u>NEW YORK NY 10036</u><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>ISTAR FINANCIAL INC [ SFI ]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><br>Director 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><u>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</u> |
|  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><u>02/17/2012</u>             |  |
| 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)   |   |  |

**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                    | 02/17/2012                           |  | A                              | V | 8,919 <sup>(1)</sup>  | A          | \$0   | 11,355 <sup>(1)</sup>   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 02/17/2012                           |  | F                              | V | 3,217 <sup>(1)</sup>  | D          | \$0   | 11,355 <sup>(1)</sup>   | D  |   |
| Restricted Stock Units          |                                      |  |                                |   |   |            |       | 35,000 <sup>(2)</sup>   | D  |   |

**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) |   | 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) |   |  |  |   |  |

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Effective February 17, 2012, the Reporting Person, Mr. David DiStaso, acquired 8,919 shares of iStar common stock upon the vesting of Restricted Stock Units (Units) pursuant to an award dated February 17, 2010. After deducting 3,217 shares for applicable tax withholding, the Reporting Person acquired a net amount of 5,702 shares of iStar common stock. Following the transactions reported in this Form 4, the Reporting Person is the beneficial owner of a total of 11,355 shares of iStar common stock, which are owned directly.
- The Reporting Person is also the owner of 35,000 Units representing the right to receive an equivalent number of shares of iStar common stock (net of shares deducted for taxes and other withholdings) if and when the Units vest.

David M. DiStaso 02/23/2012

\*\* 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.