

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

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* <u>MCDONALD JOHN G</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>GSB STANFORD UNIVERSITY, 518 MEMORIAL WY</u> (Street) <u>STANFORD CA 94305-5015</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ISTAR FINANCIAL INC [SFI]</u> 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/06/2009</u> 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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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 \$.001 per share	01/06/2009		J		18,368 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$0	50,818 ⁽²⁾	I	Trustee of Family Trust

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				

Explanation of Responses:

1. The Reporting Person has acquired 18,368 shares of common stock of iStar Financial Inc. in settlement of vested common stock equivalent ("CSE") awards received by the Reporting Person, pursuant to the iStar Financial Inc. Non-Employee Directors' Deferral Plan ("Plan"). Under the Plan, the Reporting Person has received annual CSE awards effective as of the date of each annual meeting of shareholders beginning with the 2003 annual meeting. In addition, the Reporting Person has elected to have additional CSEs credited to his account in respect of dividend equivalent payments on his CSEs. In accordance with the Plan, the Reporting Person has elected to receive a distribution of his vested CSEs in the form of shares of iStar common stock.

2. Following this transaction, the Reporting Person beneficially owns a total of 68,368 shares of iStar common stock, consisting of 17,550 shares owned indirectly in an individual retirement account established by the Reporting Person and 50,818 shares owned indirectly as trustee of a family trust.

s/ John G. McDonald 01/08/2009
** 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.