

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc.
 Form 4
 August 15, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2015
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
 Athene Group Ltd

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O WALKER CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED, WALKER HOUSE, 87 MARY STREET

(Street)

GEORGE TOWN, E9 KY1-9005

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. [ARI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 08/13/2012

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___X___ 10% Owner
 ___ Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 ___ Form filed by One Reporting Person
 X 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price |
| Common Stock | 08/13/2012 | | S | | 34,608 | D | \$ 17.0308 (1) |
| | | | | | | | 2,718,109 (4) |
| Common Stock | 08/14/2012 | | S | | 26,121 | D | \$ 17.0445 (2) |
| | | | | | | | 2,691,988 (4) |
| Common Stock | 08/15/2012 | | S | | 15,869 | D | \$ 17.0756 (3) |
| | | | | | | | 2,676,119 (4) |

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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)

| 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 Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | 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 |
| Athene Group Ltd C/O WALKER CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED WALKER HOUSE, 87 MARY STREET GEORGE TOWN, E9 KY1-9005 | | X | | |
| ATHENE ANNUITY & LIFE ASSURANCE Co PO BOX 19043 GREENVILLE, SC 29602-9043 | | X | | |
| Athene Asset Management LLC 818 MANHATTAN BEACH BLVD SUITE 100 MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266 | | X | | |
| Apollo Life Asset Ltd. C/O WALKER CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED WALKER HOUSE, 87 MARY STREET GEORGE TOWN, E9 KY1-9005 | | X | | |
| Apollo Capital Management, L.P. 9 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10019 | | X | | |
| | | X | | |

Apollo Capital Management GP, LLC
9 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10019

Apollo Management Holdings, L.P.
9 W. 57TH STREET

X

-
NEW YORK, NY 10019

Apollo Management Holdings GP, LLC
9 W. 57TH STREET
43RD FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10019

X

Athene Holding Ltd
96 PITTS BAY ROAD
PEMBROKE, D0 HM08

X

Signatures

[see signatures attached as Exhibit
99.2]

08/15/2012

__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) See Exhibit 99.1.
 - (2) See Exhibit 99.1.
 - (3) See Exhibit 99.1.
 - (4) See Exhibit 99.1.

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.