RICHARDSON J WILLIAM

Form 4 July 27, 2012

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

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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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

See Instruction

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * RICHARDSON J WILLIAM

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

[ASCA]

(Last) (First) (Middle)

(State)

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

07/25/2012

_X__ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify

3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY, SUITE 490S

> (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

> > (Zip)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X 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

Issuer

below)

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

(City)

1.Title of	2. Transaction Date	2A. Deemed	3.	4. Securities	5. Amount of	6. Ownership	7. Nature of
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	onAcquired (A) or	Securities	Form: Direct	Indirect
(Instr. 3)		any	Code	Disposed of (D)	Beneficially	(D) or	Beneficial
		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	Owned	Indirect (I)	Ownership
					Following	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)
				(A)	Reported		
				(A)	Transaction(s)		
				or			

(Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

Common 4,870 07/25/2012 A \$0 $23,620^{(2)}$ D Stock (1)

Common Family 825 I Stock LLC (3)

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

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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. Transactic 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)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$ 16.68	07/25/2012		A	8,210	07/24/2013(4)	07/25/2022	Common Stock	8,210

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships				
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other	
RICHARDSON J WILLIAM 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY SUITE 490S LAS VEGAS, NV 89169	X				

Signatures

/s/ Peter C. Walsh,
Attorney-in-Fact

**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) Constitutes a grant of restricted stock units, each of which represents a right to receive one share of common stock in the future. Such restricted stock units vest in four equal, annual installments commencing on July 24, 2013.
- (2) Balance includes previously reported restricted stock units, each of which constitutes the right to receive one share of common stock in the future.
- (3) Securities owned by Richardson Family, LLC, of which Mr. Richardson is the sole managing member and of which Mr. Richardson's immediate family members are the only other members.
- (4) Options vest in four equal, annual installments commencing on July 24, 2013.

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.

Reporting Owners 2