



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

DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

August 12, 2013

Via E-mail

Mr. Stephen D. Yarad  
Chief Financial Officer  
MFA Financial, Inc.  
350 Park Avenue  
20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10022

**Re: MFA Financial, Inc.  
Form 10-K for fiscal year ended December 31, 2012  
Filed on March 6, 2013  
File No. 001-13991**

Dear Mr. Yarad:

We have completed our review of your filing. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filing and the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cicely LaMothe

Cicely LaMothe  
Senior Assistant Chief Accountant