

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc.
 Form 4
 July 19, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 07/17/2012

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

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

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 ___ Form filed by One Reporting Person
 X Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

GEORGE TOWN, E9 KY1-9005

(City) (State) (Zip)

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	07/17/2012		S		51,800	D	\$ 16.7849 (1)	3,147,470 (4) I	See footnote (4)
Common Stock	07/18/2012		S		24,025	D	\$ 16.7308 (2)	3,123,445 (4) I	See footnote (4)
Common Stock	07/19/2012		S		1,100	D	\$ 16.69 (3)	3,122,345 (4) I	See footnote (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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(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. 5)
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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 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		
Apollo Capital Management GP, LLC 9 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10019		X		
			X	

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

ATHENE ANNUITY & LIFE ASSURANCE Co
PO BOX 19043
GREENVILLE, SC 29602-9043

X

Signatures

[see signatures attached as Exhibit
99.2] 07/19/2012

__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.
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