

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

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>ROTHSTEIN STUART</u> <hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O APOLLO GLOBAL MANAGEMENT, LLC</u> <u>9 WEST 57TH STREET, 43RD FLOOR</u> <hr/> (Street) <u>NEW YORK NY 10019</u> <hr/> (City) (State) (Zip)			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. [ARI]</u>		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>President & CEO</u>	
			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/16/2018</u>			
			4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		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	

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	01/16/2018		S ⁽¹⁾		40,000	D	\$18.3934 ⁽²⁾	285,592 ⁽³⁾	D	

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		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					

Explanation of Responses:

1. The sale reported in this Form 4 was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 plan adopted by the reporting person.
2. The price reported in column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$18.29 to \$18.49, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to the issuer, any security holder of the issuer or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in this footnote.
3. As of the transaction date, reported amount includes 225,001 restricted stock units ("RSUs") granted under the Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. 2009 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended and restated. Each RSU represents the contingent right to receive one share of the issuer's common stock for each vested RSU. The RSUs vest in installments in accordance with the terms of the applicable RSU Award Agreement by and between the reporting person and the issuer, provided the reporting person remains in service through the applicable vesting dates.

Remarks:

/s/ Jessica L. Lomm, as
Attorney-in-Fact 01/18/2018

** 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.