

JURIS LESLIE NATHANSON  
 Form 4  
 July 27, 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

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**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 \*  
 JURIS LESLIE NATHANSON

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 AMERISTAR CASINOS INC  
 [ASCA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 07/25/2012

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

3773 HOWARD HUGHES  
 PKWY, SUITE 490S

(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  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount or (D) Price		
Common Stock	07/25/2012		A		4,870 (1)	A	\$ 0 23,620 (2) D

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)**

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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)		
				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 <sup>(3)</sup>	07/25/2022	Common Stock	8,210

**Reporting Owners**

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

**Signatures**

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

07/27/2012

\*\*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) 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) Options vest in four equal, annual installments commencing on July 24, 2013.
- (4) Securities owned by the Hervey Juris and Leslie Nathanson Juris Revocable Trust, of which Ms. Nathanson Juris and her husband are co-trustees.

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.