#### RICHARDSON J WILLIAM

Form 4

November 12, 2010

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

#### **OMB APPROVAL**

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Expires:

January 31, 2005

Estimated average

response... 0.5

burden hours per

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES** 

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 5 obligations may continue.

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

Form 4 or

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 See Instruction

1(b).

(Last)

(City)

Common

Stock

(Print or Type Responses)

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

(First)

(State)

07/30/2010

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

[ASCA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 07/30/2010

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Middle)

(Zip)

X\_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title

below)

Other (specify

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)

\_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

LAS VEGAS, NV 89169

1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3) (Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially (D) or Owned Following Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect Beneficial Indirect (I) Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

Family

LLC (3)

(A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4)

Price Code V Amount (D)

3,750 \$0 A A  $15,000^{(2)}$ D (1)

Stock Common 825 I

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)	\$ 15.62	07/30/2010		A	3,750	07/29/2011(4)	07/30/2020	Common Stock	3,750

## **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
. 9	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 29, 2011.
- (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 29, 2011.

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.

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