LEIBOWITZ HARVEY

Form 4

December 15, 2009

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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OMB APPROVAL

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Last)

(City)

Security

(Instr. 3)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * LEIBOWITZ HARVEY

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

ASTA FUNDING INC [ASFI]

Issuer

(First) (Middle)

(Zip)

(Month/Day/Year)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 12/11/2009

X_ Director Officer (give title

10% Owner Other (specify

C/O ASTA FUNDING, INC., 210 SYLVAN AVENUE

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

below)

ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS,, NJ 07632 (State)

(Month/Day/Year)

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

3. 4. Securities Execution Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D)

(Instr. 8)

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

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

(A) or Code V Amount (D) Price Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

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 Conversion Security or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any

4. 5. Number of **Transaction**Derivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of 8 **Underlying Securities** (Instr. 3 and 4)

(9-02)

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	((Month/Day/Year)	(Instr.	(Acquired or Dispose (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	ed of					
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Option (right to	\$ 8.07	12/11/2009		A		25,000		<u>(1)</u>	12/11/2019	Common Stock	25,000	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

LEIBOWITZ HARVEY C/O ASTA FUNDING, INC. 210 SYLVAN AVENUE ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS,, NJ 07632



Signatures

/s/ Robert J. Michel, 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) These stock options have the following vesting schedule: 8,333 stock options vest on December 11, 2009, 8,333 stock options vest on December 11, 2010 and 8,334 stock options vest on December 11, 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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