

| OMB APPROVAL | |
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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>Syran James A.</u> | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ENCORE CAPITAL GROUP INC [ECPG]</u> | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Sr VP, Ops & Chief Mktng Off.</u> | | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/18/2013</u> | | | 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 | | |
| 3111 CAMINO DEL RIO NORTH, SUITE 1300 | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | |
| (Street) | (City) | (State) | (Zip) | SAN DIEGO CA 92108 | | | | |

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 | 12/18/2013 | | M | | 5,000 ⁽¹⁾ | A | \$22.17 | 64,337 | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2013 | | S | | 5,000 ⁽¹⁾ | D | \$45.6286 ⁽²⁾ | 59,337 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 5,000 | I | By trust ⁽³⁾ |

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 | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | |
| Non-qualified stock option (right to buy) | \$22.17 | 12/18/2013 | | M | | 5,000 ⁽¹⁾ | | (4) | 04/06/2022 | Common Stock | \$0 | 25,000 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- The transactions reported on this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on September 16, 2013.
- This price represents a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$45.48 to \$45.80, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide Encore Capital Group, Inc. ("Encore"), any security holder of Encore, 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.
- On August 19, 2013, the reporting person contributed 5,000 shares of Encore common stock to a charitable lead trust of which the reporting person is a trustee and a beneficiary. The reporting person continues to report beneficial ownership of all of the Encore common stock held by the trust but disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- The option vests in three equal installments on March 9, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

/s/ Brandt Schmidt, Attorney-in-Fact for James A. Syran 12/20/2013

** 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.