

ENCORE CAPITAL GROUP INC
Form SC 13G
February 15, 2018

UNITED STATES	OMB APPROVAL
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION	OMB Number: 3235-0145
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SCHEDULE 13G

INFORMATION STATEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13d-1 (b) (c) AND (d) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-2 (b)

Encore Capital Group, Inc.
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock
(Title of Class of Securities)

292554102
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2017
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of This Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)
- Rule 13d-(c)
- Rule 13d-1 (d)

The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

1 ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
U.S. HOLDINGS LLC
CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX
2 IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a) "
(b) x

SEC USE ONLY

3

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

4

Delaware

NUMBER OF VOTING POWER
5 OF 0

SHARES OF VOTING POWER
6 BENEFICIALLY OWNED

7 DISPOSITIVE POWER BY 0
EACH

8 REPORTING PERSON SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
9 WITH 0

AGGREGATE AMOUNT
9 BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,911,505

CHECK BOX IF THE
AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW

10 (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN
SHARES "

PERCENT OF CLASS
11 REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN
ROW (9)

6.9%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

12

HC, OO

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NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

1 ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
U.S. LLC
CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX
IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a) "
2 (b) x

SEC USE ONLY

3

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF
ORGANIZATION

4

Delaware

~~NUMBER~~ VOTING POWER

5 OF 1,799,644

~~SHARES~~ VOTING POWER

6 BENEFICIALLY

~~OWNED~~ DISPOSITIVE POWER

7 BY 1,908,719

EACH

REPORTING

PERSON

WITH

0

AGGREGATE AMOUNT

9 BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY

EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,908,719

CHECK BOX IF THE

AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW

10 (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN

SHARES "

PERCENT OF CLASS

11 REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN

ROW (9)

6.9%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

12

IA, OO

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Item 1 (a) Name of Issuer:

Encore Capital Group, Inc.

(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 103

San Diego, CA 92108

Item 2 (a) Name of Filer:

Allianz Global Investors U.S. Holdings LLC ("AGI US Holdings")

Allianz Global Investors U.S. LLC ("AGI US")

(b) Filer's Address of Principal Business Office:

AGI US Holdings: 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

AGI US: 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

(c) Filer's Citizenship:

AGI US Holdings: Delaware

AGI US: Delaware

(d) Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

(e) CUSIP Number:

292554102

Item 3 If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b), check whether the person filing is a:

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act;
- (b) Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act;
- (c) Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act;
- (d) Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "Investment Company Act");
- (e) Investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f) Employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) Parent holding company or control person, in accordance with 13d-1(b)(ii)(G);
- (h) Savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- (i) Church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act;
- (j) A non-U.S. institution in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(ii)(J); or
- (k) Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K);

If filing as a non-U.S. institution in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J), please specify the type of institution

Item 4 Ownership.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 1,911,505
- (b) Percent of Class: 6.9%
- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote:

Allian US: 1,799,644
Allianz Global Investors GmbH ("AGI GmbH"): 2,786

(ii) Shared power to vote: 0

(iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of:

AGI US: 1,908,719
AGI GmbH: 0

(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition of: 0

Each of the entities named in this Item 4 (collectively, the “AGI Advisers”) is an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and a directly or indirectly wholly-owned subsidiary of AGI US Holdings, except that AGI GmbH, an affiliate (but not a subsidiary) of AGI US Holdings, is a non-U.S. institution as described in Item 3(j).

The securities reported in this Schedule 13G are held by investment advisory clients or discretionary accounts of which an AGI Adviser is the investment adviser. When an investment management contract (including a sub-advisory agreement) delegates to an AGI Adviser investment discretion or voting power over the securities held in the investment advisory accounts that are subject to that agreement, AGI US Holdings treats the AGI Adviser as having sole investment discretion or voting authority, as the case may be, for purposes of Schedule 13G filings unless the agreement specifies otherwise. Accordingly, this Schedule 13G reports that each AGI Adviser has sole investment discretion and voting authority over the securities covered by any such investment management agreement. Each AGI Adviser may be deemed to beneficially own the securities held by its clients or accounts within the meaning of rule 13d-3 under the Act. Because AGI US Holdings is the parent holding company of the AGI Advisers that are its subsidiaries, it may be deemed to beneficially own the securities held by those AGI Advisers’ clients or accounts.

In accordance with SEC Release No. 34-39538 (January 12, 1998), this Schedule 13G reports the securities beneficially owned, or deemed to be beneficially owned, by certain subsidiaries and affiliates of AGI US Holdings. It does not include securities, if any, beneficially owned by affiliates of AGI US Holdings whose ownership of securities is disaggregated from that of AGI US Holdings and the AGI Advisers in accordance with that release.

AGI US Holdings and the AGI Advisers believe that they do not constitute a “group” within the meaning of Rule 13d-5 under the Act and that they are not otherwise required to attribute to each other the beneficial ownership of the securities reported in this Schedule 13G held by any of them or by any persons or entities for whom or for which any AGI Adviser provides investment management services. Each of AGI US Holdings and the AGI Advisers also disclaims beneficial ownership of these securities except to the extent of that filer’s pecuniary interest therein.

Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following “.”

Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

See Item 4. Each client of an AGI Adviser named in this Schedule 13G has the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of the securities reported herein. No one client holds more than five percent of such securities.

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Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company.

See Items 3 and 4.

Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 10 Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Exhibit

Exhibit A - Joint Filing Agreement

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SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 14, 2018

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS U.S. HOLDINGS LLC

By: /s/ Paul Koo
Director

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS U.S. LLC

By: /s/ Paul Koo
Director and Chief Compliance Officer

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EXHIBIT A

AGREEMENT REGARDING JOINT FILING
OF STATEMENT ON SCHEDULE 13D OR 13G

The undersigned agree to file jointly with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") any and all statements on Schedule 13D or Schedule 13G (and any amendments or supplements thereto) required under section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, in connection with purchases by the undersigned of the securities of any issuer. For that purpose, each of the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Allianz Global Investors U.S. Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, as its true and lawful agent and attorney-in-fact, with full power and authority for and on behalf of the undersigned to prepare or cause to be prepared, sign, file with the SEC and furnish to any other person all certificates, instruments, agreements and documents necessary to comply with section 13(d) and section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, in connection with said purchases, and to do and perform every act necessary and proper to be done incident to the exercise of the foregoing power, as fully as the undersigned might or could do if personally present.

Date: February 14, 2018

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS U.S. HOLDINGS LLC

By: /s/ Paul Koo
Director and Head of U.S. Compliance

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS U.S. LLC

By: /s/ Paul Koo
Director and Chief Compliance Officer