FORM 3

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

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|   |                                |                           |   | (, -              |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Name and A                                   | Address of Report<br>therine M | ing Person <sup>*</sup>   | 2. Date of Event<br>Requiring Statement<br>(Month/Day/Year)<br>01/01/2018 |                   | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol RENT A CENTER INC DE [ RCII ]                   |   |   |   |   |  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 5501 HEADQUARTERS DRIVE |                                |                           |   |                   | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner |   | (Mor  | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)    |   |  |
|   |                                |                           |   |                   | X Officer (give title below)  | Other (spe below)                                       |   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) |   |  |
| (Street) PLANO TX 75024                         |                                |                           |   | EVP - Franchising |   | 1   | X Form filed by One Reporting Person            |   |   |  |
|   |                                |                           |   |                   |   |   | Form filed by More than One<br>Reporting Person |   |   |  |
| (City)  | y) (State) (Zip)               |                           |   |                   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |                                |                           | Table I - Nor   | n-Deriva          | tive Securities Beneficial  | lly Owned   |   |   |   |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)                 |                                |                           |   |                   | 2. Amount of Securities<br>Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)                                    | 3. Ownersh<br>Form: Direct<br>or Indirect<br>(Instr. 5) | t (D) (Instr                                    |   | Beneficial Ownership  |  |
| Common  |                                |                           |   |                   | 19,805  | D   |   |   |   |  |
| Common  |                                |                           |   |                   | 102   | I   | By D  | Peferred Compensation Plan                                  |   |  |
|   |                                | (€                        |   |                   | ve Securities Beneficially ants, options, convertible                                       |   | s)  |   |   |  |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)      |                                |                           | 2. Date Exercisable an<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year)             |                   | 3. Title and Amount of Secur<br>Underlying Derivative Securi                                |   | 4.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise                 | 5.<br>Ownership<br>Form:                                    | 6. Nature of Indirect<br>Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |  |
|   |                                |                           | Date<br>Exercisable   | Expiratio<br>Date | n Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                  | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security              | Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 5)                 |   |  |
| Employee S                                      | tock Option (R                 | ight to Purchase)         | 02/16/2018 <sup>(1)</sup>   | 02/16/202         | 7 Common  | 17,817  | 8.32  | D   |   |  |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Purchase)       |                                | 02/05/2017 <sup>(1)</sup> | 02/05/202   | 6 Common          | 15,825  | 10.34   | D   |   |   |  |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Purchase)       |                                | 10/01/2010 <sup>(1)</sup> | 10/01/201   | 9 Common          | 5,000   | 18.88   | D   |   |   |  |
| Employee S                                      | tock Option (R                 | ight to Purchase)         | 01/29/2011 <sup>(1)</sup>   | 01/29/202         | 0 Common  | 1,380   | 19.7  | D   |   |  |
| Employee S                                      | tock Option (R                 | ight to Purchase)         | 01/31/2015 <sup>(1)</sup>   | 01/31/202         | 4 Common  | 5,498   | 25.03   | D   |   |  |
| Employee S                                      | tock Option (R                 | ight to Purchase)         | 02/06/2016 <sup>(1)</sup>   | 02/06/202         | 5 Common  | 6,544   | 29.31   | D   |   |  |
| Employee S                                      | tock Option (R                 | ight to Purchase)         | 01/31/2012 <sup>(1)</sup>   | 01/31/202         | 1 Common  | 2,066   | 29.91   | D   |   |  |
| Employee S                                      | tock Option (R                 | ight to Purchase)         | 01/31/2014 <sup>(1)</sup>   | 01/31/202         | 3 Common  | 3,585   | 34.77   | D   |   |  |
| Employee S                                      | tock Option (R                 | ight to Purchase)         | 01/31/2013 <sup>(1)</sup>   | 01/31/202         | 2 Common  | 2,849   | 37.19   | D   |   |  |

## Explanation of Responses:

1. Options vest ratably over 4 years beginning on the first anniversary of the date of grant and becoming fully exercisable on the 4th anniversary of the date of grant (25% of the total number of shares granted vesting on each such anniversary date). Options expire 10 years from the date of grant.

<u>/s/ Catherine M. Skula</u> <u>01/11/2018</u>

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

 $^{\star}$  If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (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.

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