Fortress Investment Group LLC Form DEF 14A April 13, 2012

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14A (Rule 14a-101) INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant x

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

o Preliminary Proxy Statement

o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only

permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

- x Definitive Proxy Statement
- o Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-12

#### FORTRESS INVESTMENT GROUP LLC

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- x No fee required.
- o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

O	ree paid previously with preliminary materials.
O	Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
	(1) Amount Previously Paid:
	(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
	(3) Filing Party:
	(4) Date Filed:

## Fortress Investment Group LLC 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105

April 13, 2012

#### Dear Fellow Shareholders:

On behalf of your Board of Directors, I am pleased to invite you to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Fortress Investment Group LLC. This meeting will be held on May 23, 2012, at 8:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time, at the Hilton Hotel New York, Beekman Room, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York.

The Notice of the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement that follow describe the business to be conducted at the meeting.

Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend, please vote by Internet, telephone, or mark, sign, date and return your proxy card, so that your shares are represented at the meeting.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please check the "Annual Meeting" box on your proxy card so that we may send you an admission card.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER TO ATTEND AND BE ABLE TO VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING: All shareholders may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. In addition, any shareholder may also be represented by another person at the Annual Meeting by executing a proper proxy designating that person as the proxy with power to vote your shares on your behalf. If you are a beneficial owner of shares, you must take the following three steps in order to be able to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting: (1) obtain a legal proxy from your broker, bank or other holder of record and present this legal proxy to the inspector of elections along with your ballot, (2) contact our Investor Relations department to obtain an admission card and present this admission card to the inspector of elections and (3) present an acceptable form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport, to the inspector of elections.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Briger, Jr. and Wesley R. Edens Co-Chairmen of the Board

### Fortress Investment Group LLC 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105

#### Notice of the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

#### To Our Shareholders:

Fortress Investment Group LLC will hold its 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") at the Hilton Hotel New York, Beekman Room, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York, on May 23, 2012 at 8:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time.

The matters to be considered and acted upon at the Annual Meeting, which are described in detail in the accompanying materials, are:

- 1. the election of four Class II directors, Robert I. Kauffman, Michael E. Novogratz, Takumi Shibata and George W. Wellde, Jr., to serve until the 2015 annual meeting;
- 2. the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent registered public accounting firm for Fortress Investment Group LLC for fiscal year 2012; and
- 3. any other business properly presented at the Annual Meeting.

Your Board of Directors recommends that you vote in favor of the proposals set forth in this Proxy Statement.

You may vote at the Annual Meeting if you were a shareholder of record at the close of business on March 29, 2012.

Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please vote by Internet, telephone, or mark, sign, date and return your proxy card, so that your shares are represented at the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

David N. Brooks Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

New York, New York April 13, 2012

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING	1
Date, Time and Place of the Annual Meeting	1
Matters To Be Considered at the Annual Meeting	1
Recommendations of the Board of Directors	1
Record Date	1
Voting Securities	1
Quorum and Votes Needed	1
Voting of Proxies	2
Revocability of Proxy	3
Persons Making the Solicitation	4
Attendance at the Annual Meeting	4
Copies of Annual Report to Shareholders	4
Voting Results	4
Confidentiality of Voting	4
PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS	5
Nominees Nominees	5
Information Concerning Our Directors, Including Our Director Nominees	5
Legal Proceedings Involving Directors, Officers or Affiliates	8
Director Independence	9
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	9
Corporate Governance Guidelines	10
Code of Business Conduct and Ethics	10
Communications with the Board of Directors	10

Meetings of the Board of Directors	10
Committees of the Board of Directors	10
Policy Regarding Roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairmen of the Board of Directors	12
Board Role in Risk Oversight	12
Employee Compensation Policies and Risk Management	13
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	13
OWNERSHIP OF THE COMPANY'S SHARES	14
Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance	14
Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management	14
EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	15
Compensation Discussion and Analysis	15

	Page
Additional Details on Executive Compensation	18
Potential Payments Upon Change-in-Control or Termination	22
Employment Agreements with Our Named Executive Officers	24
Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation	25
DIRECTOR COMPENSATION	26
COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT	28
REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE	29
CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS	30
Policies and Procedures For Related Party Transactions	30
Related Party Transactions	30
Formation Transactions	30
Shareholders Agreement	31
Exchange Agreement	33
Expense Allocation Agreement	33
Tax Receivable Agreement	33
Investor Shareholder Agreement	35
Other Related Party Transactions	36
Fortress Operating Group Limited Partnership Agreements and Our Operating Agreement	37
Indemnification Agreements	42
PROPOSAL NUMBER TWO: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	43
Audit Fees, Audit Related Fees, Tax Fees and All Other Fees	43
Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures	43
OTHER MATTERS	44

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROXIES	44
SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS AND NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING	44
IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 23, 2012	44
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	45

Fortress Investment Group LLC 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105

April 13, 2012

### PROXY STATEMENT

For The 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders To Be Held On May 23, 2012

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING

Date, Time and Place of the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors (the "Board" or "Board of Directors") of Fortress Investment Group LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Fortress," the "Company," "