

Strickland Michael M  
 Form 3  
 January 22, 2009

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL  
 OMB Number: 3235-0104  
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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â Strickland Michael M		(Month/Day/Year)	SOUTHERN FIRST BANCSHARES INC [SFST]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
P.O. BOX 17465			(Check all applicable)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
	(Street)		<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
GREENVILLE,Â SCÂ 29606			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
	(City)	(State)	(give title below)	(specify below)
		(Zip)	Executive Vice President	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	567	D	Â

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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 control number.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Title	Amount or Number of		

				Shares		(I) (Instr. 5)	
Stock Options	01/15/2012	01/15/2018	Common Stock	2,500	\$ 13.5	D	^

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Strickland Michael M P.O. BOX 17465 GREENVILLE, SC 29606	^	^	^ Executive Vice President	^

## Signatures

Michael M. Strickland, /s/Julie A, Fairchild, POA	01/22/2009
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* 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).

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### Remarks:

Exhibit List - Exhibit 24 Power of Attorney

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.