

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 4  
February 27, 2009

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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 \*  
**LEFFERSON C DOUGLAS**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/ [FFBC]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
  
4000 SMITH RD., SUITE 400  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/14/2009

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP & COO

CINCINNATI, OH 45209

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 02/14/2009                           |  | D <sup>(1)</sup>               | V Amount (A) or (D) Price \$ 7.99                                 | 18,925  | I  | Restricted Award                                      |
| Common Stock                    | 02/14/2009                           |  | A <sup>(2)</sup>               | V Amount (A) or (D) Price \$ 7.99                                 | 25,441  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 12,645.382  | I  | 401-k   |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

number.

**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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title  | Amount or Number of Shares |
| 2008 (NQ) Stock Option                     | \$ 11.64   |                                      |  |                                |   | 02/14/2009   | 04/14/2018  | Common Stock                                       | 63,409                     |
| 2000 (ISO) Stock Option                    | \$ 17.56   |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/24/2001   | 01/24/2010  | Common Stock                                       | 5,694                      |
| 2000 (NQ) Stock Option                     | \$ 17.56   |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/24/2001   | 01/24/2010  | Common Stock                                       | 6,433                      |
| 2001 (ISO) Stock Option                    | \$ 16.0124   |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/23/2002   | 01/23/2011  | Common Stock                                       | 6,244                      |
| 2001 (NQ) Stock Option                     | \$ 16.0124   |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/23/2002   | 01/23/2011  | Common Stock                                       | 4,256                      |
| 2002 (ISO) Stock Option                    | \$ 17.2  |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/17/2003   | 01/17/2012  | Common Stock                                       | 5,813                      |
| 2002 (NQ) Stock Option                     | \$ 17.2  |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/17/2003   | 01/17/2012  | Common Stock                                       | 4,187                      |
|  | \$ 16.58   |                                      |  |                                |   | 01/22/2004   | 01/22/2013  |  | 6,031                      |

|                                  |          |            |            |                 |                 |  |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| 2003<br>(ISO)<br>Stock<br>Option |          |            |            |                 | Common<br>Stock |  |
| 2003<br>(NQ)<br>Stock<br>Option  | \$ 16.58 | 01/22/2004 | 01/22/2013 | Common<br>Stock | 3,969           |  |
| 2004<br>(ISO)<br>Stock<br>Option | \$ 17.09 | 01/21/2005 | 01/21/2014 | Common<br>Stock | 2,500           |  |
| 2005<br>(ISO)<br>Stock<br>Option | \$ 17.51 | 04/18/2006 | 04/18/2015 | Common<br>Stock | 5,711           |  |
| 2005<br>(NQ)<br>Sock<br>Option   | \$ 17.51 | 04/18/2006 | 04/18/2015 | Common<br>Stock | 19,289          |  |
| 2006<br>(ISO)<br>Stock<br>Option | \$ 16.02 | 04/24/2007 | 04/24/2016 | Common<br>Stock | 6,242           |  |
| 2006<br>(NQ)<br>Stock<br>Option  | \$ 16.02 | 04/24/2007 | 04/24/2016 | Common<br>Stock | 19,258          |  |
| 2007<br>(ISO)<br>Stock<br>Option | \$ 14.9  | 04/30/2008 | 04/30/2017 | Common<br>Stock | 6,711           |  |
| 2007<br>(NQ)<br>Stock<br>Option  | \$ 14.9  | 04/30/2008 | 04/30/2017 | Common<br>Stock | 21,489          |  |
| 2008<br>(ISO)<br>Stock<br>Option | \$ 11.64 | 02/14/2009 | 02/14/2018 | Common<br>Stock | 8,591           |  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |

LEFFERSON C DOUGLAS  
4000 SMITH RD.  
SUITE 400  
CINCINNATI, OH 45209

EVP &  
COO

## Signatures

/s/Terri J  
Ziepfel, POA

02/27/2009

\*\*Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* 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).

- (1) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award
- (2) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award (less shares sold to cover taxes)

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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