

Klein James B
Form 3
August 13, 2012

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Klein James B | | (Month/Day/Year) | STERLING BANCORP [stl] | |
| (Last) | (First) | 08/03/2012 | | |
| 650 FIFTH AVENUE | | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| (Street) | | | (Check all applicable) | |
| NEW YORK, NY 10019 | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | <input type="checkbox"/> Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
| | | | (give title below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner | |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |
| | | | (specify below) | |

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 | 82,866 | D ⁽¹⁾ | ^ |
| Common Stock | 9,489 | I ⁽²⁾ | by spouse |
| Common Stock | 264,902 | I ⁽³⁾ | by trust |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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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 | 4. Conversion or Exercise | 5. Ownership Form of | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------|---|
|--|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------|---|

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| Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | (Instr. 4) | Amount or Number of Shares | Price of Derivative Security | Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) |
|------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | | Title | | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Klein James B 650 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10019 | X | ^ | ^ | ^ |

Signatures

James B. Klein 08/10/2012

__Signature of Date
Reporting Person

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).
- (1) Shares reported as owned by Mr. Klein include 33,488 shares held jointly with his spouse, Mrs. Bonnie Klein.
- (2) Shares reported as owned by Mr. Klein are owned by his spouse, Mrs. Bonnie Klein. Mr. Klein disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.

Shares reported as owned by Mr. Klein, as trustee, include: 141,662 shares held in the Jonas P. Klein Marital Trust; 48,829 shares held in the Phyllis Klein 2009 3-Year GRAT; 41,934 shares held in the Phyllis Klein 2009 2-Year GRAT; and 32,477 shares held in the Estate of Phyllis S. Klein. Mr. Klein disclaims beneficial ownership of all these shares.

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.