

Lebel Joseph III
 Form 4
 January 30, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
 Lebel Joseph III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 OCEANFIRST FINANCIAL CORP
 [OCFC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 975 HOOPER AVENUE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/28/2009

____ Director
 ____ Officer (give title below) 10% Owner
 ____ Other (specify below)
 1st SVP, CLO, OceanFirst Bank

TOMS RIVER, NJ 08754
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount Price			
Common Stock	01/28/2009		P	500 A \$ 13.99	500	I	By Spouse
Common Stock					500	D	
Common Stock					335	D (1) (2)	
Common Stock					0	I	By 401(k) (3)
Common Stock					819	I	By Esop (3)

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Common Stock	279	I	By Matching ESOP ⁽⁴⁾ <u>(5)</u>
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474
(9-02)

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. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 22.74					04/28/2007 ⁽⁶⁾ 04/28/2016	Common Stock	10,000
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 20.25					03/02/2008 ⁽⁷⁾ 03/02/2017	Common Stock	4,500
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 16.81					02/20/2009 02/20/2018	Common Stock	7,088

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Lebel Joseph III
975 HOOPER AVENUE
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08754

1st SVP, CLO, OceanFirst Bank

Signatures

/s/ John K. Kelly, Power of
Attorney

01/30/2009

__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) Restricted shares awarded under the OceanFirst Financial Corp. 2006 Stock Incentive Plan vest at a rate of 20% per year beginning March 1, 2009.
- (2) Shares acquired by award. Description of Ownership changed from Indirect to Direct to reflect recipient's ability to vote all shares at the time of award.
- (3) This form reflects increases in beneficial ownership resulting from exempt acquisitions pursuant to Rule 16b-3(c).
- (4) Represents shares acquired under the OceanFirst Bank Matching Contribution Employee Stock Ownership Plan established as part of a spin-off from the OceanFirst Employee Stock Ownership Plan effective December 27, 2006
- (5) This form reflects increases in beneficial ownership resulting from exempt acquisitions under the ESOP pursuant to Rule 16b-3(c).
- (6) Options vest at a rate of 20% per year commencing April 28, 2007.
- (7) Options vest at a rate of 20% per year commencing March 2, 2008.
- (8) Options awarded under the OceanFirst Financial Corp. 2000 Stock Option Plan vest in five equal annual installments beginning on February 20, 2009.

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.