

COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC
 Form 4
 February 29, 2008

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 *
 DRESSEL MELANIE J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC [COLB]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/27/2008

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 President and CEO

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

| 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock | 02/27/2008 | | A | (A) or (D) 6,000 (1) | \$ 0 | 40,345 | D |
| Common Stock | 02/28/2007 | | A | (A) or (D) 5,000 (1) | \$ 0 | 33,718 | D |
| Common Stock | 01/18/2007 | | M | (A) or (D) 5,519 | \$ 11.77 | 28,718 | D |
| Common Stock | 01/18/2007 | | P | (A) or (D) 8,488 | \$ 11.77 | 23,199 | D |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 6,022 | I 401k |

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| | | | |
|--------------|--------|---|----------------------|
| Common Stock | 46,932 | I | Family Trust LLC |
| Common Stock | 2,408 | I | North Mason Fiber |
| Common Stock | 10 | I | Shares owned by son. |
| Common Stock | 10 | I | Shares owned by son. |

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

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.

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(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 | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| ISO (Right to Buy) | \$ 11.77 | 01/18/2007 | | P | 8,488 | 01/20/2002 01/20/2007 | Common Stock | 8,488 | |
| NQSO (Right to Buy) | \$ 11.77 | 01/18/2007 | | M | 5,519 | 01/20/2002 01/20/2007 | Common Stock | 5,519 | |
| NQSO (Right to Buy) | \$ 10.82 | | | | | 12/03/2003 12/05/2008 | Common Stock | 12,128 | |

Reporting Owners

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

DRESSEL MELANIE J

X

President and CEO

Signatures

/s/Cathleen Dent

02/29/2008

**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 Stock Award

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.