

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 4  
February 27, 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 \*  
**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

(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)
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.

**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**

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

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.