Keegan James Bennett Jr Form 4 February 02, 2009

FORM 4

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

SECURITIES

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP

Symbol

OMB APPROVAL OMB

Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

Estimated average burden hours per

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

Keegan James Bennett Jr

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

			/WA/ [STSA]			(Ch	(Check all applicable)				
(Last) 111 N. WAI		(Mo	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/30/2009				X Director Officer (gi below)	ctor 10% Owner er (give title Other (specify below)			
	(Street)	4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)				[6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person			
SPOKANE, WA 99201								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 Da any (Month/Day/	Code	8)	4. Security Acquired Disposed (Instr. 3,	l (A) o l of (D))	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)		
Common Stock	01/30/2009		A(1)		1,000	A	\$0	2,040	D		
Common Stock								82,034	I	Keegan & Coppin Company, Inc.	
Common Stock								8,965	I	Keegan & Coppin Profit Sharing Plan	

Common			Keegan
Stock	40,603	I	Family
SIOCK			Trust

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

	1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.	5.	6. Date Exerc		7. Title		8. Price of	9. Nu
	Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transacti	onNumber	Expiration D	ate	Amount	of	Derivative	Deriv
	Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Underly	ing	Security	Secui
	(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Securitie	es	(Instr. 5)	Bene
		Derivative			, ,	Securities			(Instr. 3	and 4)		Own
		Security				Acquired						Follo
		~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				(A) or						Repo
						Disposed						Trans
						of (D)						(Instr
						` ′						(IIISU
						(Instr. 3,						
						4, and 5)						
									А	mount		
									Oi			
							Date	Expiration		lumber		
						Exercisable Date	Date	01				
					Codo V	(A) (D)						
					Code v	(A) (D)			3	hares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
reporting owner runner runners	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
Keegan James Bennett Jr 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	X						

Signatures

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, Chief Financial 02/02/2009 Officer

> **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 grant pursuant to Sterling's 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan. Grant vests over 4 year period (25% each year).

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.

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