

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 4  
January 23, 2006

**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)  
  
3514 ISLAND TRAIL DRIVE  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**01/13/2006**

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
**EVP & COO**

**WILLIAMSBURG, OH 45176**

(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)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	01/13/2006		M	1,537 A \$ 11.3019	15,182	D	
Common Stock					9,961	I	401-K
Common Stock					16,251	I	Restricted Award

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. Amount or Number of Shares	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
1996 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 11.3019	01/13/2006		M	1,537	01/24/1997	01/24/2006	Common Stock	1,537
1998 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 19.087					01/27/1999	01/27/2008	Common Stock	1,271
1999 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 22.565					01/25/2000	01/25/2009	Common Stock	4,201
1999 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 22.565					01/25/2000	06/12/2010	Common Stock	1,574
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	\$ 16.0124					01/23/2002	01/23/2011	Common Stock	4,256

Option 2002 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	5,813
Option 2002 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	4,187
Option 2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	6,031
Option 2003 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	3,969
Option 2004 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.09	01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	2,500
Option 2005 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.51	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	5,711
Option 2005 (NQ) Sock Option	\$ 17.51	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	19,289

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
LEFFERSON C DOUGLAS 3514 ISLAND TRAIL DRIVE WILLIAMSBURG, OH 45176			EVP & COO	

## Signatures

Terri J. Ziepfel                      01/23/2006  
 \*\*Signature of                      Date  
 Reporting Person

## 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).

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.