

CAPPELLI LOUIS J
Form 4
August 26, 2011

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
CAPPELLI LOUIS J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
STERLING BANCORP [stl]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
650 FIFTH AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
08/25/2011

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Chairman and CEO

(Street)
NEW YORK, NY 10019

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

(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 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 Share, par value \$1.00 per share | 08/25/2011 | | J ⁽¹⁾ | V | 166,147 ⁽¹⁾ | D | \$ 0 765,782 ⁽²⁾ D |

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

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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 Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code V (A) (D) | | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title or Number of Shares | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| CAPPELLI LOUIS J 650 FIFTH AVENUE 4TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10019 | X | | Chairman and CEO | |

Signatures

Louis J. Cappelli 08/26/2011

**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) On August 25, 2011, the Reporting Person caused 166,147 of the Issuer's common shares held by a grantor retained annuity trust (the "GRAT") to be distributed to its beneficiaries, and such beneficiaries immediately contributed all of the Issuer's shares received from the GRAT to a limited liability company of which the Reporting Person is the sole managing member. Such distribution and subsequent contribution were exempt from Section 16(a)-13 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(2) Includes 21,939 restricted common shares issued on March 25, 2010, and 20,584 restricted common shares issued on March 24, 2011, pursuant to the Sterling Bancorp Stock Incentive Plan consistent with the requirements of the TARP Interim Final Rule. The shares will vest 50%, 25% and 25% on the second, third and fourth anniversaries of the grant date, subject to (1) accelerated vesting upon death, disability and change in control and (2) continued vesting upon retirement after the second anniversary of the grant date subject to compliance with a non-compete. Also includes 166,147 of the Issuer's common shares held through a limited liability company.

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.