

FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/  
Form 4  
February 03, 2017

**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 \*  
COLE M RAY JR

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
8 AUBURN LANE  
(Street)

HATTIESBURG, MS 39402

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/  
[FBMS]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
02/01/2017

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

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount  | (D)  | Price                                      |
| COMMON STOCK <sup>(1)</sup>     | 02/01/2017                           |  | A                              |   | 10,717  | A  | \$ 0                                       |
| COMMON STOCK                    | 02/01/2017                           |  | F                              |   | 2,567   | D  | \$ 27.65                                   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  | 75,853                                     |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  | 73,286 <sup>(2)</sup>                      |

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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**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 Reporting Transaction (Instr. 6) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                          | Relationships |           |                   |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer           | Other |
| COLE M RAY JR<br>8 AUBURN LANE<br>HATTIESBURG, MS 39402 | X             |           | PRESIDENT AND CEO |       |

## Signatures

M. Ray Cole, Jr.                      02/03/2017  
 \_\_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).
- (1) Restricted stock grant, subject to forfeiture, vesting on 2-1-2022.  
 Includes 5,535 shares of restricted stock (remaining after 2,567 shares were surrendered for taxes) that were granted on 2-1-14 and vested on 2-1-17. Mr. Cole's shares that have vested are no longer subject to delivery restrictions that were formerly required pursuant to the company's participation in the U.S. Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program. As of Dec. 6, 2016, the company no longer participates in the TARP Program.

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.