

WILL JAMES M  
Form 4  
November 26, 2008

**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 \*  
WILL JAMES M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM INC [COLB]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
1301 A STREET, STE. 800,  
MS-3100  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
11/25/2008

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

TACOMA, WA 98402-4200

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
				Code V	Amount		
Common Stock	11/25/2008		P	A	\$ 2,800 9.67	D	
Common Stock	11/25/2008		P	A	\$ 750 <sup>(1)</sup> 9.65	D	
Common Stock	11/25/2008		P	A	\$ 1,400 9.69	I	Shares purchased and held in his wives name.

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.

SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**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)	Amount or Number of Shares
NQSO (Right to Buy)	\$ 7.2	04/15/2005		M	2,206	04/23/2000 04/23/2005	Common Stock	2,206
NQSO(Right to Buy)	\$ 18.56					04/22/2001 04/22/2006	Common Stock	2,100
NQSO (Right to Buy)	\$ 9.9	06/13/2008		P	1,820	06/28/2003 06/28/2008	Common Stock	1,820
NQSO (Right to Buy)	\$ 11.92					05/15/2004 05/15/2009	Common Stock	1,820

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WILL JAMES M 1301 A STREET, STE. 800, MS-3100 TACOMA, WA 98402-4200		X		

## Signatures

Cathleen Dent 11/26/2008  
 \*\*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) Shares purchased jointly with his wife

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

## Edgar Filing: WILL JAMES M - Form 4

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.