

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 18, 2006

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(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)
01/17/2006

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
EVP & COO

WILLIAMSBURG, OH 45176

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
____ 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 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 Stock	01/17/2006		J(1)	1,529 A	\$ 17.505	15,174 D	
Common Stock					9,961	I	401-K
Common Stock	01/17/2006		J(2)	2,471 D	\$ 0	13,780 I	Resticted 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. Pri Deriv Secur (Instr
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	
1996 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 11.3019					01/24/1996	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
	\$ 16.0124					01/23/2002	01/23/2011	
								4,256

2001 (NQ) Stock Option					Common Stock	
2002 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	5,813	
2002 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 17.2	01/17/2003	01/17/2012	Common Stock	4,187	
2003 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	6,031	
2003 (NQ) Stock Option	\$ 16.58	01/22/2004	01/22/2013	Common Stock	3,969	
2004 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.09	01/21/2005	01/21/2014	Common Stock	2,500	
2005 (ISO) Stock Option	\$ 17.51	04/18/2006	04/18/2015	Common Stock	5,711	
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 01/18/2006

__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) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award (less shares sold to cover taxes)
- (2) Vesting of Restricted Stock Award

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

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