

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/  
Form 4  
January 13, 2009

**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 \*  
PURKRABEK KNUST SUSAN L

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)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/12/2009

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

4000 SMITH RD., SUITE 400

(Street)

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

CINCINNATI, OH 45209

(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)
			Code	V Amount (D) Price			
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	01/12/2009		P	280 A \$ 10.2959	2,741	D	
Common Stock					583.7559	D <sup>(1)</sup>	
Common Stock					1,525.4411	I <sup>(1)</sup>	K.p. Properties
Common Stock					4,508.5943	I	Restricted Stock Award <sup>(1)</sup>

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Common Stock (David & Susan Knust Living Trust)	2,000	D
Common Stock (David Knust FFB Trust)	3,000	D
Common Stock (Susan Knust Agency Trust)	525	D
Common Stock (Susan Knust FFB Trust)	3,000	D

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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(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)	8. Pri Deriv Secur (Instr.	
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
						Code	V	(A)	(D)
2005	\$ 17.08					04/26/2006	04/26/2016	Common	8,663

(NQ)  
 Sock  
 Option

Stock

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
PURKRABEK KNUST SUSAN L 4000 SMITH RD. SUITE 400 CINCINNATI, OH 45209	X			

## Signatures

/s/Terri J  
 Ziepfel, POA

01/13/2009

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) Includes shares in dividend reinvestment account

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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