

CAPPELLI LOUIS J
 Form 5
 January 20, 2010

FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL

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 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

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)

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

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

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
 12/31/2009

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

NEW YORK, NY 10019

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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) Amount or (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 12/16/2009 | | G | 12,500 D \$ 0 | 711,977 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 6,602 | I | By IRA |
| Common Stock | | | | | 711 | I | By Spouse (1) |

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

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SEC 2270 (9-02)

the form displays a currently valid OMB control 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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | |
| Non-qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 6.94 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | 02/11/2001 | 02/11/2010 | Common Stock | 142, |
| Non-qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 14.6 | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | 02/06/2003 | 02/06/2012 | Common Stock | 47,2 |

Reporting Owners

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

Signatures

Louis J. Cappelli 01/20/2010
 **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).

Owned beneficially and of record by Virginia M. Cappelli, wife of Louis J. Cappelli. Louis J. Cappelli expressly declares that the filing of (1) this Annual Statement of Changes shall not be construed as an admission that he is, for the purpose of Section 16 of this Act, the beneficial owner of any of the securities in this note and he hereby disclaims any beneficial ownership of the securities by this note.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.