

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/
 Form 4
 May 23, 2012

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)
 255 EAST FIFTH STREET, SUITE 2900

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 05/22/2012

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

(Street)
 CINCINNATI, OH 45202

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

(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 (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	05/22/2012		A	1,251 A \$ 15.99	2,490	I	Restricted Stock Awards ⁽¹⁾
Common Stock					5,852.7062	D ⁽¹⁾	
Common Stock					1,755.2637	I ⁽¹⁾	K.p. Properties
Common Stock (David &					2,000	D	

Susan Knust Living Trust)			
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
FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan)	5,506		D

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

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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. Priority of Derivative Securities (Instr. 3)	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

2005
 (NQ) \$ 17.08 04/26/2006 04/26/2016 Common Stock 8,663
 Sock
 Option

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
PURKRABEK KNUST SUSAN L 255 EAST FIFTH STREET SUITE 2900 CINCINNATI, OH 45202	X			

Signatures

/s/Terri J
 Ziepfel, POA 05/23/2012

**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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