STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 4 May 01, 2012

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

OMB APPROVAL

Number:

3235-0287

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

Check this box

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

may continue. See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * COULTER DAVID A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Issuer

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

/WA/[STSA]

(Last) (First) (Middle)

(Street)

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

X_ Director Officer (give title below)

10% Owner Other (specify

111 N. WALL STREET 04/30/2012

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

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (I)

(Instr. 4)

(Instr. 4)

(A) or

Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless 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)

Code

1. Title of Derivative Conversion or Exercise Security

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any

5. Number Transaction of Derivative Expiration Date

Securities

6. Date Exercisable and (Month/Day/Year)

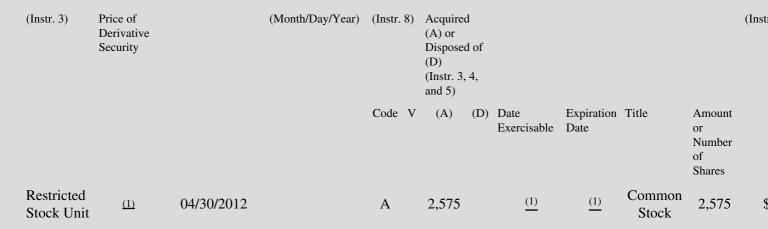
7. Title and Amount of 8. Pr **Underlying Securities** (Instr. 3 and 4)

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
COULTER DAVID A 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	X			

Signatures

/s/ Robert G. Butterfield,
attorney-in-fact 05/01/2012

**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).

Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Sterling common stock. The restricted stock units are

(1) scheduled to become 100% vested after the first anniversary date of the grant (April 30, 2013) subject to the reporting person's continued service with the Company on such date.

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

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