

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 4

January 07, 2003

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
Leep, Bruce E.
3106 Condit
Highland, IN 46322
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
First Financial Bancorp (FFBC)
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
307-38-1303
4. Statement for Month/Day/Year
01/06/2003
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

| 1. Title of Security | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Execution Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) | 5. Amount or Price | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|--|--|
| Common Stock | | | | | 264217 | | 264217 |
| Common Stock | | | | | 208727 | | 208727 |
| Common Stock | | | | | 0 | | 0 |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 73 |
| FFBC (Directors Fee Stock Plan) | 01/06/2003 | | P | 145 | \$17.0985 | A | 2076 |

TABLE II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Execution Date (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|--|
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1999 (NQ) \$19.2641
Stock
Option
2001 (NQ) \$15.6
Stock
Option

08/24/2009 Common
Stock
04/24/2011 Common
Stock

Explanation of Responses:

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
/s/ Terri J. Ziepfel

DATE
01/07/2003