

OCEANFIRST FINANCIAL CORP

Form 4

March 12, 2008

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 *
Lebel Joseph III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
OCEANFIRST FINANCIAL CORP
[OCFC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
975 HOOPER AVENUE
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
03/11/2008

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
1st SVP, Chief Lending Officer

TOMS RIVER, NJ 08754
(City) (State) (Zip)

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

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | Code | V Amount (A) or (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 03/11/2008 | | P | 500 A \$ 16 | 500 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 335 | D | (1) (2) |
| Common Stock | | | | | 819 | I | By Esop (3) |
| Common Stock | | | | | 279 | I | By Matching ESOP (4) (5) |

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

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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. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 22.74 | | | | | 04/28/2007 ⁽⁶⁾ 04/28/2016 | Common Stock | 10,000 |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 16.81 | | | | | 02/20/2009 02/20/2018 | Common Stock | 7,088 |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 20.25 | | | | | 03/02/2008 ⁽⁸⁾ 03/02/2017 | Common Stock | 4,500 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Lebel Joseph III 975 HOOPER AVENUE TOMS RIVER, NJ 08754 | | | 1st SVP, Chief Lending Officer | |

Signatures

/s/ John K. Kelly, Power of Attorney
03/12/2008

**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) Restricted shares awarded under the OceanFirst Financial Corp. 2006 Stock Incentive Plan vest at a rate of 20% per year beginning March 1, 2009.
- (2) Shares acquired by award. Description of Ownership changed from Indirect to Direct to reflect recipient's ability to vote all shares at the time of award.
- (3) This form reflects increases in beneficial ownership resulting from exempt acquisitions pursuant to Rule 16b-3(c).
- (4) Represents shares acquired under the OceanFirst Bank Matching Contribution Employee Stock Ownership Plan established as part of a spin-off from the OceanFirst Employee Stock Ownership Plan effective December 27, 2006
- (5) This form reflects increases in beneficial ownership resulting from exempt acquisitions under the ESOP pursuant to Rule 16b-3(c).
- (6) Options vest at a rate of 20% per year commencing April 28, 2007.
- (7) Options awarded under the OceanFirst Financial Corp. 2000 Stock Option Plan vest in five equal annual installments beginning on February 20, 2009.
- (8) Options vest at a rate of 20% per year commencing March 2, 2008.

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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