

Colosimo Tom  
Form 5  
February 06, 2009

# FORM 5

**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).  
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 *			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	
Colosimo Tom			STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]		(Check all applicable)	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)		<input type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
			12/31/2008		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)
111 N. WALL STREET			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		Sec 16 Officer	
(Street)					6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting	
SPOKANE, WA 99201					(check applicable line)	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)			<input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person	
					<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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)
Common Stock	12/31/2008		J(2)	1,440 A \$ (1)	3,921	I	401k Shares
Common Stock					7,000	D	

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

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