SOUTHERN FIRST BANCSHARES INC

Form 4

January 21, 2016

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

OMB APPROVAL

Expires:

January 31, 2005

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Form 5 obligations may continue.

See Instruction

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(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

Strickland F Justin

P.O. BOX 17465

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

SOUTHERN FIRST BANCSHARES INC [SFST]

(Last) (First) (Middle)

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

01/19/2016

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

below) below) President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

GREENVILLE, SC 29606

(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. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (T) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

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

Code V Amount (D) Price

(A)

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 Conversion Security or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if any

4. 5. Number of TransactionDerivative Code Securities

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

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

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(Instr. 3) Price of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)

Code V (A) (D) Date Exercisable Expiration Date

Stock

Options (right to \$23 01/19/2016 A 10,000 01/19/2017(1) 01/19/2026 Common Stock 10,000

Title

Amount

or Number of Share

buy)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Strickland F Justin

P.O. BOX 17465 President

GREENVILLE, SC 29606

Signatures

F. Justin Strickland, /s/Julie A Fairchild, POA 01/21/2016

**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) Stock options vest equally over 4 years.

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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