

CARSTENS JOHN ALBERT
 Form 3
 October 06, 2010

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * | | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Â CARSTENS JOHN ALBERT | | (Month/Day/Year) | WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP [WTFEC] | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 09/30/2010 | |
| 727 NORTH BANK LANE | | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| (Street) | | | (Check all applicable) | |
| LAKE FOREST,Â ILÂ 60045 | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
| | | | (give title below) (specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| | | | Executive Vice President | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| COMMON STOCK | 21,816 | D | Â |
| COMMON STOCK | 1,386 | I | FBO minor children |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|--|--|---|---|---|---|

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| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | Security | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | 01/22/2007 | 01/22/2012 | Common Stock | 1,999 | \$ 18.8133 | D | Â |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | 12/14/2012 ⁽¹⁾ | 12/14/2014 | Common Stock | 6,500 | \$ 33.18 | D | Â |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | 12/22/2008 | 12/22/2013 | Common Stock | 1,780 | \$ 45.46 | D | Â |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | 07/26/2010 | 07/26/2015 | Common Stock | 60,000 | \$ 55.105 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| CARSTENS JOHN ALBERT 727 NORTH BANK LANE LAKE FOREST, IL 60045 | Â | Â | Â Executive Vice President | Â |

Signatures

/s/David A. Dykstra,
 Attorney-in-Fact
 10/05/2010
**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) The options become exercisable at a rate of 20% per year following the date of grant.

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Remarks:

Exhibit 24 - Power of Attorney

Reporting Person was identified by the Company as a Section 16 reporting person as of September

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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