CENTRUE FINANCIAL CORP

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of

securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Form 5

January 05, 2009

OMB APPROVAL FORM 5 **OMB** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION 3235-0362 Number: Washington, D.C. 20549 Check this box if January 31, Expires: no longer subject 2005 to Section 16. Estimated average ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL Form 4 or Form burden hours per 5 obligations OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES response... 1.0 may continue. See Instruction Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 1(b). Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section Reported 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 Form 4 Transactions Reported 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer SMITH MARK LESLIE Symbol CENTRUE FINANCIAL CORP (Check all applicable) [TRUE] (Middle) 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Last) (First) _X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title (Month/Day/Year) Other (specify below) below) 12/31/2008 122 W MADISON STREET (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting Filed(Month/Day/Year) (check applicable line) OTTAWA, ILÂ 61350 _X_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person Form Filed by More than One Reporting (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. 7. Nature of (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Indirect Security Transaction Acquired (A) or Securities Ownership (Instr. 3) Code Disposed of (D) Beneficially Form: Direct Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Owned at end (D) or Ownership of Issuer's (Instr. 4) Indirect (I) Fiscal Year (Instr. 4) (A) (Instr. 3 and or (D) Price Amount **COMMON** Â Â Â Â Â Â Â 15,714 (3) D **STOCK**

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

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SEC 2270

(9-02)

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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)	
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
DIRECTOR STOCK OPTION	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(1)	(1)	COMMON STOCK	Â
PHANTOM STOCK	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(2)	(2)	COMMON STOCK	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
1 0	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
SMITH MARK LESLIE 122 W MADISON STREET OTTAWA, IL 61350	ÂΧ	Â	Â	Â		

Signatures

MARK LESLIE 01/05/2009 SMITH

**Signature of Reporting Date
Person

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) SHARES GRANTED TO THE REPORTING PERSON UNDER THE ISSUER'S STOCK OPTION PLAN.
- PHANTOM SHARES ACCRUED DURING 2007 AND 2008, WHICH BECOME PAYABLE, IN CASH OR COMMON STOCK, AT (2) THE ELECTION OF THE REPORTING PERSON, UPON THE REPORTING PERSON'S TERMINATION OF SERVICE AS A DIRECTOR.
- (3) 5,868 SHARES ARE HELD INDIVIDUALLY, 9,366 JOINT WITH SPOUSE AND 480 SHARES HELD BY SPOUSE.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.

Reporting Owners 2