

MARTIN JOHN  
Form 3  
June 22, 2009

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

**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 <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	
MARTIN JOHN		(Month/Day/Year)	FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	06/15/2009	
200 EAST JACKSON STREET			4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
(Street)			(Check all applicable)	
MUNCIE, IN 47305			<input type="checkbox"/> Director	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
			(give title below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
			Senior Vice President / Chief Credit Officer	

**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	2,900	D	^

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 Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	

				Shares		(I) (Instr. 5)	
Employee stock option right to buy	02/24/2011	02/23/2019	Common Stock	2,000	\$ 11.14	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MARTIN JOHN 200 EAST JACKSON STREET MUNCIE, IN 47305	Â	Â	Â Senior Vice President	Chief Credit Officer

## Signatures

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) 06/22/2009

\*\*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).

Â

### Remarks:

Exhibit 24

### Confirming Statement

This statement confirms that the undersigned, John Martin, has authorized and designated Larry R. Williams to execute and file on the undersigned's behalf all Forms 3, 4, and 5 (including any undersigned may be required to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of ownership of or transaction in the securities of First Merchants Corporation. The authority of Larry R. Williams under this statement shall continue until the undersigned is no longer required to file regarding the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of First Merchants Corporation revoked in writing. The undersigned acknowledges Larry R. Helms and/or James R. Williams is the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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.