

ESTEE LAUDER COMPANIES INC  
 Form 4  
 December 18, 2008

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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**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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 STERNLICHT BARRY S

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 ESTEE LAUDER COMPANIES INC [EL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/17/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

STARWOOD CAPITAL GROUP, 591 W. PUTNAM AVE.

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

GREENWICH, CT 06830

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				(A) or (D)	Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction	5. Number of Derivative	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Pr Deriv
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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)	Secu (Instr	
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Units (Share Payout)	(1)	12/17/2008	A(2)	36.29	(3)	(3)	Class A Common Stock	36.29 \$ 3
Stock Units (Cash Payout)	(1)	12/17/2008	A(2)	164.06	(3)	(3)	Class A Common Stock	164.06 \$ 3

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
STERNLICHT BARRY S STARWOOD CAPITAL GROUP 591 W. PUTNAM AVE. GREENWICH, CT 06830	X			

## Signatures

Barry S. Sternlicht, by Charles E. Reese, II,  
Attorney-in-fact  
Date: 12/18/2008

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) Not applicable.
- (2) Represents reinvestment of dividend equivalents on outstanding stock units.
- (3) The stock units will be paid out the first business day of the calendar year following the last date of the Reporting Person's service as a director of the Company.

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.