

STECHER ESTA E
Form 4
December 19, 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 *
STECHER ESTA E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC
[GS]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O GOLDMAN, SACHS &
CO., 85 BROAD STREET

(Street)

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

____ Director
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
Executive VP - General Counsel

NEW YORK, NY 10004

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

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 Indirect Beneficial 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 Underlying Security
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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)				
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number of Shares
Year-End Restricted Stock Units	(1)	12/17/2008	A		14,117		(1)	(1)	Common Stock	14,
Year-End Nonqualified Stock Options	\$ 78.78	12/17/2008	A		104,868 (2)		(2)	12/31/2018	Common Stock	104

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
STECHER ESTA E C/O GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO. 85 BROAD STREET NEW YORK,, NY 10004			Executive VP - General Counsel	

Signatures

/s/ Roger S. Begelman, 12/19/2008
 Attorney-in-fact

__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).
- One-third of these year-end Restricted Stock Units ("RSUs") will convert into shares of the Issuer's Common Stock in each of January
- (1) 2010, January 2011 and January 2012. 2,871 of the shares of Common Stock underlying these RSUs cannot be transferred before January 2014.
 - (2) One-third of these Stock Options become exercisable in each of January 2010, January 2011 and January 2012; if the Stock Options are exercised, the underlying shares of Common Stock cannot be transferred before January 2014.

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.