

Glisson Britton L.  
Form 3  
February 05, 2009

**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 \*

Glisson Britton L.  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement

(Month/Day/Year)  
02/01/2009

3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
MARKEL CORP [MKL]

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

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

(Check all applicable)

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

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

C/O MARKEL CORPORATION, 4521 HIGHWOODS PARKWAY  
(Street)

GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**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	8,898.732 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	
Common Stock	1,223.287	I	401(K) Plan <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock	1,106	I	By Spouse <sup>(3)</sup>

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date <small>(Month/Day/Year)</small>	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 (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Glisson Britton L. C/O MARKEL CORPORATION 4521 HIGHWOODS PARKWAY GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060	^	^	^ Chief Administrative Officer	^

## Signatures

Linda S. Rotz, Attorney-in-fact for Britton L. Glisson 02/05/2009

\*\*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).
  - (1) Includes 1,781 restricted stock units granted pursuant to the Markel Corporation Omnibus Incentive Plan, of which 479 units will vest on December 31, 2009, 803 units will vest on December 31, 2010, 265 units will vest on December 31, 2011, and 234 units will vest on December 31, 2012.
  - (2) Holdings under the Markel Corporation 401(K) Plan are reported in units. The information reported herein is based on a plan statement dated as of January 30, 2009 and utilizes the closing stock price on that date of \$270.03. As of 1/30/2009, a unit under the Plan represented one share of Common Stock.
  - (3) Beneficial ownership of securities is disclaimed.

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.