

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL	
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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Grensteiner Ronald James</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY</u> (Street) <u>WEST DES MOINES</u> <u>IA</u> <u>50265</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>07/08/2009</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Vice President</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)
			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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)
<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>49,589</u>	<u>D</u>	

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: 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			
<u>Options-Right to Buy</u>	<u>05/05/2000</u>	<u>05/05/2010</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>9.67</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Options-Right to Buy</u>	<u>12/31/2000</u>	<u>12/31/2010</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>9.67</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Options-Right to Buy</u>	<u>12/04/2003</u>	<u>12/04/2013</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Options-Right to Buy</u>	<u>06/10/2004</u>	<u>06/10/2014</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Options-Right to Buy</u>	<u>06/30/2005</u>	<u>12/31/2014</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>10.77</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Options-Right to Buy</u>	<u>06/11/2011</u>	<u>06/11/2018</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10.85</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Options-Right to Buy</u>	<u>05/08/2012</u>	<u>05/08/2019</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Deferred Compensation</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>5.33</u>	<u>D</u>	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Deferred Compensation payment is exercisable within 60 days after the occurrence of the earliest of the following events: (i)employee's termination of employment; (ii)a change in control of company; (iii)action of the Board of Directors; (iv)employee's death

Debra J. Richardson, By Power of Attorney 07/20/2009

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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