

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 3

Filing Date: **2006-05-08** | Period of Report: **2006-03-01**
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ISSUER

HANCOCK JOHN BANK & THRIFT OPPORTUNITY FUND

CIK: **925683** | IRS No.: **043241844** | State of Incorporation: **MA**

Mailing Address

*C/O JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS
601 CONGRESS STREET
BOSTON MA 02210*

Business Address

*C/O JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS
601 CONGRESS STREET
BOSTON MA 02210
617-663-3000*

REPORTING OWNER

Medina Steven

CIK: **1361987**

Type: **3** | Act: **34** | File No.: **811-08568** | Film No.: **06815607**

Mailing Address

*601 CONGRESS STREET
BOSTON MA 02110*

Business Address

617-663-2145

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>Medina Steven</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) 601 CONGRESS STREET (Street) BOSTON, MA 02110 (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 03/01/2006 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>HANCOCK JOHN BANK & THRIFT OPPORTUNITY FUND [bto]</u> | |
| | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ___ Director ___ 10% Owner <u>X</u> Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below) VP, the Adviser | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line) <u>X</u> 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) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|

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 (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | |

Signatures

Steven Medina

** Signature of Reporting Person

05/04/2006

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 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).

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

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 Number.