

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor
Camden, New Jersey 08101



Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

More Information? Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

News on the Internet: News Releases, related documents and advisories are posted short-term at our website, along with links to our archived releases at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. ***Go to:*** <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/>

Assistant U.S. Attorney
RONALD CHILLEMI
856-757-5232

barr0522.rel
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2008

Former Bank Manager Sentenced to 37 Months for Stealing Over \$829,000 from Customer Accounts

(More)

Greg Reinert, PAO
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233
973-645-2888

Breaking News (NJ) <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/>

CAMDEN – A former Commerce Bank branch manager was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison today for stealing approximately \$829,000 from customer accounts over more than five years, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez also ordered Susan Barrett, 42, of Washington Township in Gloucester County, to pay approximately \$656,800 in restitution (Barrett paid approximately \$172,200 in restitution prior to the sentencing hearing). Judge Rodriguez continued Barrett's release on \$100,000 bond pending her surrender to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons in July to begin serving her prison term.

Barrett pleaded guilty on June 5, 2007, before Judge Rodriguez to a one-count Indictment. The Indictment charged that Barrett, while an employee of Commerce Bank, stole deposits that were in the care and custody of Commerce Bank and insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

At her plea hearing, Barrett stated that prior to July 1997 and continuing through July 2003, she was employed as the manager of a Commerce Bank branch in Sicklerville. Barrett admitted that during that period she made unauthorized withdrawals of money from the corporate and personal accounts of a Commerce Bank customer. Furthermore, Barrett agreed that after the customer passed away in September 2001 she made unauthorized withdrawals of money from other Commerce Bank accounts, which including those of the customer's daughters and a sister. Barrett admitted that she used the withdrawn money for her own benefit.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Rodriguez consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, was not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge, Janice K. Fedarck in Philadelphia, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ronald Chillemi of the Criminal Division in Camden.

– end –

Defense Attorney: Lisa Evans Lewis, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender