

NEWS

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Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former Atlantic City Woman Admits
Social Security and Bankruptcy Fraud

(More)

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TRENTON – A former New Jersey woman today pleaded guilty to Social Security and bankruptcy fraud, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra announced.

Aulena Clement, 45, formerly of Atlantic City and now living in Tampa, Fla., pleaded guilty to a two-count Information charging that she obtained more than \$27,300 worth of credit using a false Social Security number and then filed bankruptcy in an attempt to discharge the fraudulently-obtained debt, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Donna D. Gallucio.

Clement admitted that she submitted several credit card applications, using a false Social Security number, to Bank of America and American Express Company and charged approximately \$27,300 worth of merchandise and services. According to the Information, on Jan. 24, 2006, Clement filed a Chapter 13 bankruptcy petition, under the same false Social Security number and sought to be relieved of that debt.

Sentencing for Clement is scheduled for Nov. 2 before U.S. District Judge Peter G. Sheridan, who took the guilty plea. Clement faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and an order of restitution on each count.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Sheridan will consult 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, is not bound by those guidelines and determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodian terms must serve nearly all that time.

Under an Information a defendant waives the right to have her case presented to a federal grand jury and, instead, pleads guilty to charges presented by the government.

Marra credited the staff of Roberta DeAngelis, the Acting U.S. Trustee for the District of New Jersey and Special Agents of the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General with developing the case against Clement.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gallucio of the U.S. Attorney's Commercial Crimes Unit in Newark.

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Defense Attorney: William H. Bryan, III, Esq., Orlando, Fla.