

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
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Newark, New Jersey 07102

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 11, 2007

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## Brooklyn Man Admits Stealing from Major Retailers in Counterfeit Receipt Scheme

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(More)

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NEWARK – A Brooklyn man pleaded guilty Monday to wire fraud, admitting he spent four years employing a counterfeit receipt scheme to defraud Bed, Bath & Beyond, Pier 1 Imports, Michaels Stores and F.Y.E. out of roughly \$200,000, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Adam Stefanile, 32, of Brooklyn, N.Y., pleaded guilty to a one-count Information charging wire fraud, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott B. McBride. Following the guilty plea, U.S. District Judge Jose L. Linares set sentencing for Nov. 19.

The defendant faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine, or double the pecuniary gain he derived from his offense, on the sole mail fraud count. In addition, Stefanile must pay \$200,000 in restitution to Bed, Bath & Beyond, Pier 1 Imports, Michaels Stores and F.Y.E.

Stefanile admitted that, during the four-year period, he stole merchandise from the retail chains in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maryland and elsewhere. According to the Information to which he pleaded guilty, he obtained the merchandise either by taking it off a loading dock, or by stealing it from unattended delivery trucks. He also stole receipt tape straight from the computer terminals at various store locations of these retailers.

According to Stefanile, he would legitimately purchase merchandise at the retailers in order to obtain a receipt. He selected this merchandise based on whatever stolen items he had in his personal inventory. Stefanile then produced multiple copies of the legitimate receipts using the receipt tape he had stolen and a computer scanner he had in his home. He then returned the stolen merchandise to the retailers for a refund using the counterfeit receipts.

Stefanile admitted repeating this process on hundreds of occasions during the four-year period. Under terms of his plea agreement, he has agreed to pay restitution of \$120,000 to Bed, Bath & Beyond; \$70,000 to Pier 1 Imports; and \$10,000 to both Michaels Stores and F.Y.E.

“This was one prolific thief,” said Christie. “Each fraudulent transaction was for relatively paltry sums, but he did this hundreds of times. For all his effort, he will now go to prison and be forced to pay back what he stole.”

Among the examples of theft outlined in the Information to which he pleaded guilty:

- Stefanile presented stolen merchandise and a counterfeit receipt to an employee of BBB in North Brunswick and received approximately \$170 in cash in return on July 25, 2003.

- Stefanile presented stolen merchandise and a counterfeit receipt to an employee of BBB in Iselin and received approximately \$223 in cash in return on July 23, 2005.
- Stefanile presented stolen merchandise and a counterfeit receipt to an employee of BBB in Manhattan and received approximately \$238 in cash in return on Oct. 8, 2005.
- Stefanile presented stolen merchandise and a counterfeit receipt to an employee of BBB in Cherry Hill and received approximately \$165 in cash in return on Oct. 25, 2005.

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

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Linares 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 in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

U.S. Attorney Christie credited Special Agents from the United States Secret Service, under the direction Special Agent in Charge Cynthia Wofford, for this successful investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott B. McBride.

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Defense Counsel:  
John M. Murphy, Jr., Staten Island, N.Y.