

# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter  
Western District of New York

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## **ROMANIAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD CHARGE**

BUFFALO, N.Y.--Tiberiu Szebeni, 30, of Romania, pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara, to a felony charge of bank fraud, Acting U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. Bank fraud carries a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron J. Mango, who handled the case, stated that from March 14, 2009 to March 31, 2009, the defendant participated in a scheme in which he obtained ATM bank card information from customers of Citizens Bank using a skimming device, and then used that information to produce and use counterfeit access devices to fraudulently obtain money. During the course of the bank fraud scheme, the defendant fraudulently obtained ATM bank card information from approximately 26 individual customers of Citizens Bank. AUSA Mango further stated that after fraudulently obtaining the ATM bank card information, the defendant produced 26 counterfeit access devices so that he could withdraw money from each account. The defendant then used those counterfeit access devices on March 21, 2009 and March 22, 2009 at various ATM locations throughout the Western District of New York, and withdrew a total of \$50,320.00. On March 31, 2009, the defendant was arrested at the Rainbow Bridge Port of Entry by Special Agents with the United States Secret Service, and has been in federal custody since that date.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Secret Service - Buffalo Field Division, under the direction of Tracy Gast, Special Agent In Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 12, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of U.S. Chief District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara.