

News Release

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Ohio*

For Release:

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Gregory A. White, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio announced the following sentences which were recently imposed in a conspiracy to commit bank fraud case.

On May 8, 2007, a federal grand jury sitting in Cleveland, Ohio, returned an indictment charging 12 defendants with conspiracy to commit bank fraud, theft of the mail and uttering and possessing forged checks totaling approximately \$151,475.00, resulting in an actual loss of \$ 86,074.43. All twelve defendants pleaded guilty to conspiracy and/or fraud related charges and were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Solomon Oliver Jr. between October 3, 2007, and January 8, 2008.

The indictment charged that between May 1, 2005, and November 30, 2005, the defendants negotiated and attempted to negotiate at banks throughout the Northern District of Ohio, forged checks totaling approximately \$151,475.00. These checks, along with bank account information, were stolen from the United States mail.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Restitution</u>	<u>Date of Sentencing</u>
Terry Copeland	71 months	\$86,074.43	1/8/08
Richard Daniel	27 months	\$15,100.00	10/23/07
Tawanna Neal	18 months	0	12/4/07
Douglas L. White	15 months	\$1,800.00	12/13/07
Cedric C. Harris	12 months	\$1,700.00	11/06/07
Ardana Jones	10 months	\$4,800.00	12/18/07
Rachelle Ford	10 months	\$6,800.00	12/13/07
Gwendolyn Ward	6 months	\$ 425.00	12/17/07
Anthony J. Bouie	6 months	0	11/13/07
Belinda Jordan	4 months	\$4,800.00	10/9/07
Clarence Cummings	1 month	0	10/3/07
James Green	2 years probation	0	12/13/07

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert F. Corts of the Cleveland U.S. Attorney's Office, following an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Postal Service, Office of the Inspector General.

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