



# Department of Justice

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## **CENTRAL OHIO WOMAN SENTENCED TO 35 MONTHS FOR BANK FRAUD**

### *Forged judge's and attorney's signatures*

COLUMBUS – Stephanie A. Parsley, 38, of Orient, Ohio was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 35 months for a counterfeit check scheme to defraud a bank of money that she used to purchase a condominium. Parsley, also known as Stephanie P. Ciccone, also forged signatures of a U.S. District judge and her public defender on a counterfeit “court order” for the victim bank to release funds it had frozen after she pleaded guilty.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Jamie Fitch, Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, Grove City Police Chief Joseph Wise, and other law enforcement agencies participating in the Columbus Multi Jurisdictional Counterfeit Check Task Force announced the sentence handed down today by U.S. District Judge Michael H. Watson.

Parsley pleaded guilty on January 5, 2009 to one count of bank fraud. In February 2009, Parsley created a document that appeared to be an order from a U.S. District Court judge for the victim bank to release \$27,894.51 to her for living expenses and for the purchase of a used car. The document appeared to have been signed by both the judge presiding over her case at the time and her public defender.

Upon receipt of the document, bank officials contacted the public defender, who contacted law enforcement and advised that Parsley had forged the judge's and her attorney's signatures on the document.

In her initial scheme, Parsley opened a savings account at an Internet bank by initiating electronic transfers of \$2,500 from two non-existent checking accounts at Huntington Bank. She then wrote a bogus check that appeared to be drawn in the amount of \$100,000 on a non-existent account at the Internet bank, using that check to open a checking account and a savings account at Huntington Bank. On the same day, Parsley withdrew \$11,951.51 from one of the accounts at Huntington Bank, negotiated at Huntington Bank another, similar bogus check in the amount of \$119,515.02, and received from Huntington Bank a cashier's check for \$118,986.03 that she used to buy a condominium. The next day, Parsley withdrew an additional \$4000 from one of the accounts at Huntington Bank.

Parsley's sentence includes an order to pay restitution in the amount of \$123,626.81 to Huntington Bank.

Stewart commended the investigation by the Task Force, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dale Williams, who prosecuted the case.

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