



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Former Virginia Beach School CFO Sentenced for Aggravated ID Theft and Fraud

(Norfolk, Virginia) - Mordecai L. Smith, age 46, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, former Chief Financial Officer of the Virginia Beach school system, was sentenced today to 64 months in prison for aggravated identity theft, bankruptcy fraud, and wire fraud. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Smith was sentenced by United States District Judge Jerome B. Friedman. Restitution to any victims of the offense will be ordered by Judge Friedman in 90 days. Smith had pled guilty to these charges on August 22, 2006.

According to court documents, for the past several years Smith had been involved in a series of fraud schemes that included filing fraudulent bankruptcy petitions to avoid foreclosure on his former residence in Virginia Beach, and defrauding a mortgage company into funding a \$360,000 loan to purchase a home in which he resided by convincing another individual to apply for the loan in that person's name. Smith also submitted fraudulent documents to the mortgage company which falsely claimed the individual worked for his company earning \$90,000 per year, and defrauded a neighbor out of \$27,000 by falsely promising the neighbor the funds would be used to invest in a \$10 million dollar apartment complex in Atlanta, Georgia.

The case was investigated by the Norfolk Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Seidel, Jr. prosecuted the case for the United States.

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