



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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AT  
202-739-2014

A federal grand jury in Syracuse, New York, today indicted ten corporations and five individuals on charges of conspiring to fix brokerage commissions charged in the sale of residential real estate in Onondaga County, New York.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said the indictment and a companion civil complaint, both charging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, were filed in U. S. District Court in Syracuse.

Named as defendants in the indictment were:

- Greater Syracuse Board of Realtors, Inc.
- Gallinger Real Estate, Inc., Camillus, New York; John M. Gallinger, President.
- Eagan Real Estate, Inc., Syracuse; Thomas E. Teelin, Residential Sales Manager.
- A. Menter Real Estate, Inc., Fayetteville, New York.
- Clark Real Estate Onondaga, Inc., Syracuse.
- DeWitt Real Estate, Inc., DeWitt, New York; Walter J. Hansen, Jr., former Vice President.
- Blatchford Realty Co., Inc., North Syracuse, New York.

(MORE)

- Longley-Jones Associates, Inc., Syracuse.
- L. D. Marshall Real Estate, Inc., Manlius, New York.
- Olson-Peck, Inc., Fayetteville, New York.
- Fred E. Woods, formerly associated with Ludington & McMahon Associates, Inc., and
- John M. Peiffer, Jr., formerly associated with Peiffer Real Estate, Inc.

The civil complaint names the ten corporations as defendants.

Assistant Attorney General Donald I. Baker, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the indictment charges the defendants conspired to fix commissions from sometime in 1972 until November, 1974.

The Greater Syracuse Board of Realtors, Inc., operates a multiple listing service to which most of its real estate broker members subscribe. In 1974, sales of real estate--primarily residential--made through the service amounted to more than \$79 million.

The defendant corporations, other than the Board, accounted for more than half of such sales in 1974. Their total sales of residential real estate, including sales made outside the service, came to about \$60 million and resulted in combined gross commissions of approximately \$4 million.

The maximum penalty on conviction under the indictment is a \$50,000 fine for a corporation and a \$50,000 fine and one year in prison for an individual.

The civil complaint requests the Court to enjoin the defendants from continuing or renewing the conspiracy to fix commissions.

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