



Department of Justice

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TOBIN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FINANCING SCHEME

ATLANTA, GA - ANTHONY TOBIN, 51, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Timothy C. Batten, Sr. to serve 7 years in federal prison on charges of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, and one count of wire fraud.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "This defendant stole millions of dollars by preying on the hopes and dreams of people just trying to make a go of their own businesses. Now he will spend the next seven years in prison. This case should serve as a warning to other fraudsters: stealing with your guile rather than a gun still lands you in prison."

Atlanta United States Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey Gilbert said, "Let this case serve as a warning to con artists who masquerade as brokers of funds and prey on entrepreneurs and small businesses in need of working capital. Our agency along with our law enforcement partners will bring to justice anyone who receives up front fees under false pretenses."

Martin Phanco, Special Agent in Charge, United States Postal Inspection Service, said, "The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has investigated advance fee schemes for many years. This case is no different. Advance fee scams are still out there and so are we. Postal Inspectors will continue to go after those who use the U. S. Mail to defraud the American public."

Joe Doyle, Administrator of the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs, said of today's guilty plea, "OCA is gratified that after years of investigating this defendant's activities, there is now justice with a sentence in federal prison, through a truly coordinated effort among three Federal agencies and the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs."

TOBIN was sentenced to 7 years in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. TOBIN was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2.4 million.

According to United States Attorney Yates, and information presented in court: TOBIN organized a conspiracy to use various Internet networking websites for the purpose of obtaining email addresses of potential victims. TOBIN, and others he directed, contacted and convinced victims that he was in the business of providing and marketing various sources of venture capital, investment funds and business loans. TOBIN then told potential victims that he had access to an investment fund and venture capital through his company's supposed consortium of private investors. TOBIN met with potential victims in Atlanta with the supposed purpose of hearing their business proposals to receive funding from the consortium.

As a precondition for this funding, the victims were required to pay non-refundable advance expenses and fees. TOBIN admitted today that, contrary to what he promised victims, he did not have and did not intend to provide to the victims access to loans and investment funds. TOBIN kept the fees and transferred them to other accounts controlled by TOBIN and the co-defendants in the case. Over three dozen victims lost money in the scheme. Losses have now been calculated to be approximately \$5 million.

Two other co-defendants were charged in the case. EYAL DULIN, 39, of Snellville, Georgia, remains a fugitive, and KATHERINE TWIGG, 47, of Hoschton, Georgia, is scheduled to be sentenced on May 4, 2010, at 2:30 before Judge Batten.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, Postal Inspectors from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the (Georgia) Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs.

Assistant United States Attorney Bernita B. Malloy and Robert C. McBurney prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charlyse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.