



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates  
Northern District of Georgia

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## **FORMER BANK EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD CONSPIRACY AND AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT**

### *Defendant was Employed in Bank's Fraud Detection Department*

ATLANTA, GA - YOLANDA DENISE SCOTT, 32, of Hampton, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Charles A. Pannell, Jr. to serve 4 years, 6 months in federal prison on charges of bank fraud conspiracy and aggravated identity theft, in connection with selling customers' bank account information and Social Security numbers while employed in the fraud detection department of Wachovia Bank.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "This now former bank employee betrayed the trust of her employer and its customers by using her position in the fraud detection department to sell customers' account information and Social Security numbers. The customers then had money stolen from their accounts. Ms. Scott's prison sentence should serve as a message to any bank employee to protect the privacy and integrity of the bank's customers."

Special Agent in Charge Reginald Moore of the United States Secret Service said, "The Secret Service takes an aggressive approach toward the prevention and investigation of aggravated identity theft and bank fraud. As an investigative priority, we strive to maintain the safety, public trust and integrity of our banking system. This case demonstrates the wide-reaching effects of corrupt bank employees who use their position for financial gain, its impact on innocent victims and communities, and the importance of cooperation among our local law enforcement partners."

SCOTT was sentenced to 4 years, 6 months in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$91,104.94 in restitution to Wachovia Bank. SCOTT was convicted of these charges on May 21, 2010, after a 5 day trial.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: SCOTT worked in the Exceptions Department of Wachovia Bank as an Exceptions Specialist. Her job was to review items that had been flagged as suspicious by the bank's computer system, and determine whether the items should be paid or declined as fraudulent. As such, SCOTT had access to virtually all information about all customer bank accounts. SCOTT sold bank account numbers and credit card numbers to her co-defendant in the case, SCHNIKIA SCRUGGS. SCRUGGS accessed the fraudulently obtained bank accounts and withdrew funds to pay her personal bills online, and to transfer funds to her own bank accounts and her PayPal account. SCRUGGS also ran the fraudulently obtained credit card numbers on a credit card machine, causing funds to be deposited into an account she maintained for her hair styling business. SCRUGGS paid SCOTT for the bank account information by making cash payments to her from the stolen funds, and purchasing a laptop computer for SCOTT, also with the stolen funds. Over the course of approximately four months, from June until October 2007, SCRUGGS drained over \$125,000 from bank accounts provided to her by SCOTT.

SCRUGGS pled guilty on January 27, 2010, to the bank fraud conspiracy and one count of aggravated identity theft. She cooperated with the Government and testified at SCOTT's trial. She was sentenced on June 22, 2010, to serve 1 year, 6 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay restitution to Wachovia Bank in the amount of \$91,104.94. She is currently serving her sentence.

Wachovia Bank refunded the stolen funds to the customers' accounts and assisted in the investigation and prosecution of the case.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, with the assistance of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office and Wachovia Bank fraud investigators.

Assistant United States Attorneys Teresa D. Hoyt and Steven D. Grimberg prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, United States 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.justice.gov/usao/gan](http://www.justice.gov/usao/gan).