



U.S. Department of Justice

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ELEVEN INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING IN CONNECTION WITH \$9.6 MILLION REAL ESTATE CLOSING SCAM

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; JAMES W. MARTIN, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service–Criminal Investigation (“IRS-CI”); GARY PACK, McHenry County State’s Attorney, and HOWARD PARTH, Chief of the Crystal Lake Police Department, today made the following announcement:

A federal grand jury in Rockford has returned a 37-count indictment charging eleven individuals with wire fraud, mail fraud, and money laundering. The indictment alleges that the defendants defrauded several banks and other lenders out of more than \$9.6 million by conducting numerous fraudulent real estate closings.

The indictment alleges that, at the fraudulent real estate closings, some of defendants falsely posed as the buyers and sellers of real estate that they had no actual interest in buying or selling. While participating in these closings, the indictment states, the defendants often provided false names and presented false identification documents, such as fake Illinois drivers’ licenses and identification cards. The indictment further alleges that the defendants caused financing to be arranged for the purported buyers of the real estate. According to the indictment, at each of the closings, one of the defendants provided to the title companies a fraudulent “Mortgage Release.” These bogus releases falsely represented that the banks and lenders who held the previous mortgages against the real estate had released their mortgages, the indictment alleges. Acting in reliance on these mortgage releases, the indictment states, the title companies disbursed the loan funds to the defendants. The indictment further alleges that the defendants laundered these fraudulently obtained loan proceeds in a variety of ways, such as having the title companies issue the checks to third parties and then depositing the checks into their bank accounts. The indictment charges that the fraudulent closings occurred at branch offices of five different title companies located in Chicago, the Chicago suburbs, and Crystal Lake.

The individuals charged in the indictment are:

JAN ROZYCKA, 42, 3701 North Harding, Chicago, Illinois, also known as “Jan Rozycki,” also known as “John Hanus,” also known as “Jarek,” also known as “John Krzinski,” charged with nine counts of wire fraud, three counts of mail fraud, and one count of money laundering;

IGNACY KONDRAD, 48, 2862 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, also known as "Piotr Poltorak," also known as "Jan Jestal," charged with one count of wire fraud and eight counts of money laundering;

WALDEMAR WILKIEWICZ, 28, 3153 North Hamlin, Chicago, Illinois, also known as "Robert Karolkiewicz," charged with two counts of wire fraud;

MICHAEL SKATULSKI, 32, 1808 South Michigan Avenue, number 37, Chicago, Illinois, also known as "Michael Novak," charged with four counts of wire fraud and two counts of mail fraud;

MAGDALENA BANASIK, 53, 6006 West Miami, Chicago, Illinois, charged with six counts of wire fraud, two counts of mail fraud, and three counts of money laundering;

ROBERT KAROLKIEWICZ, 40, 3109 North Octavia, Chicago, Illinois, charged with three counts of wire fraud and three counts of money laundering;

ZBIGNIEW RECKO, 35, last known address of 3901 North Tripp Avenue, Number 310, Chicago, Illinois, also known as "Robert Karolkiewicz," also known as "Tomasz Wozny," also known as "Tomasz Romanzuk," also known as Tomasz Godowski," also known as "Bradley Anatol Wawreniuk," also known as "Roman Parczewski," charged with four counts of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud;

IOAN CORSIUC, 63, 4869 North Kilbourn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, charged with five counts of wire fraud and one count of money laundering;

BOZENA SAUCIUC, 43, 204 Lake Shore Drive, Oakwood Hills, Illinois, charged with four counts of wire fraud and one count of money laundering;

DOROTHY KAWA, 35, 6313 West Cuyler, Chicago, Illinois, charged with two counts of money laundering; and

JULITA URAMOWSKA, 31, 3903 Grand Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois, also known as "Julie Smalley," charged with one count of wire fraud.

Each of the mail and wire fraud counts carry a maximum sentence of up to thirty years of imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and restitution. Each of the money laundering charges carries a maximum penalty of up to twenty years of imprisonment and a fine of up to \$500,000. If a defendant is convicted, his or her actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

Banasik, Karolkiewicz, Corsiuc, Sauciuc, Kawa, and Uramowska will be arraigned by United States Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney this morning, at 10:00 a.m., at the federal courthouse in Rockford. Skatulski was arrested on April 9, 2004, in Pompano Beach, Florida. Skatulski is scheduled to appear for a bail and removal hearing in federal court in Fort Lauderdale on Thursday, April 14, 2004. Recko is currently a fugitive.

Rozycka, Kondrad, and Wilkiewicz were originally indicted on November 18, 2003, on federal charges relating to three of the fraudulent real estate closings. The current indictment supersedes that original indictment. Rozycka, Kondrad, and Wilkiewicz are scheduled to be arraigned on the superseding indictment by Judge Mahoney on Tuesday, April 20, 2004. These three defendants have been held in custody since their arrest in Crystal Lake on September 23, 2003.

The case is being investigated by the Rockford offices of the FBI and IRS-CI. The case will be prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney SCOTT A. VERSEMAN. The investigation was initiated on September 23, 2003, when the Crystal Lake Police Department arrested Rozycka, Kondrad, and Wilkiewicz on forgery charges after they conducted a fraudulent real estate closing in Crystal Lake. The Crystal Lake Police Department and the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office are cooperating in the federal investigation.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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