



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCKFORD WOMAN CHARGED WITH BANKRUPTCY FRAUD

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

This morning, a federal grand jury in Rockford returned a two-count indictment charging **CHRISTINA M. LEVISKAS**, 49, of Rockford, with bankruptcy fraud. Specifically, the indictment charges Leviskas with engaging in a scheme to defraud her creditors and making false statements, under penalty of perjury, on certain schedules and a Statement of Financial Affairs which she filed with the bankruptcy court.

The indictment alleges that on October 17, 2003, Leviskas filed a petition for bankruptcy with the United States Bankruptcy Court in Rockford. According to the indictment, individuals who file bankruptcy are required to disclose to the bankruptcy court all of their property. The debtor's property is then placed into an "estate." Monies from the estate are divided up and paid to the debtor's creditors on a pro rata basis.

The indictment states that the judgment in Leviskas' divorce case was entered on September 2, 2003. According to the indictment, this divorce judgment awarded Leviskas 60% of her ex-husband's pension plan account. In addition, the indictment alleges, the divorce judgment ordered Leviskas to pay the debts charged to nine specific credit cards.

The indictment charges that Leviskas schemed to defraud her creditors in her bankruptcy case by: (1) concealing her interest in her husband's pension plan account; (2) using funds from that pension plan to pay personal expenses and debts owed to her relatives; and (3) at the same time, causing the bankruptcy court to discharge all of her other debts, including approximately \$61,000 in credit card debts that she owed. The indictment also alleges that Leviskas made numerous false statements and intentional omissions on the schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs which she filed with the bankruptcy court, including: (1) failing to disclose two checking accounts she owned at Alpine Bank; (2) failing to disclose an IRA she owned at Alpine Bank; (3) failing to disclose the property settlement which entitled her to 60% of her ex-husband's pension plan account; (4) failing to disclose that she owed both her mother and her oldest son at least \$4,000 each; (5) failing to disclose a \$20,000 distribution she received from her ex-husband's pension in March of 2003, and (6) failing to disclose that she controlled an account in the name of her youngest son at Alpine Bank.

Each of the two indictment counts carries a maximum penalty of up to 5 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and restitution. If convicted, the defendant's actual sentences will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

Leviskas will be arraigned by United States Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney on Friday, March 21, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. The arraignment will occur at the federal courthouse in Rockford.

The case is being investigated by the Rockford office of the FBI. The case will be prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney SCOTT A. VERSEMAN.

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

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