



U.S. Department of Justice

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SECOND BROTHER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR 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 afternoon, in federal court in Rockford, **JAMES E. PERSFULL, 52, of Poplar Grove, Illinois**, was sentenced to serve 39 months in prison for his conviction for one count of bankruptcy fraud and three counts of concealing property from his bankruptcy trustee. The court also sentenced Persfull to serve 3 years of supervised release following his imprisonment, and ordered him to pay a fine of \$25,000.00. Persfull will not be eligible for parole.

After a six day trial that ended on September 28, 2009, a federal jury returned guilty verdicts against James Persfull and his brother, Joseph R. Persfull, 48 (of Naperville, Illinois), who was convicted of one count of bankruptcy fraud. The indictment alleged that in connection with James E. Persfull's bankruptcy case in 2003 in the United States Bankruptcy Court in Rockford, Joseph Persfull and James Persfull engaged in a scheme to defraud the bankruptcy trustee. According to the indictment, Joseph Persfull and James Persfull schemed to conceal information from the Bankruptcy Trustee that their mother had died, that she had a will, and that James E. Persfull had become entitled to a property interest in his mother's estate. The indictment further alleged that Joseph Persfull and James Persfull performed the scheme through the use of sham documents, a "Disclaimer of Inheritance" and a "Declination of Office," in which James Persfull pretended to forego his interest in his mother's estate, when in fact, he received his entire inheritance. In sentencing Persfull, Judge Kapala stated that the scheme was elaborate in its planning and execution.

Joseph R. Persfull was sentenced on January 7, 2010, to serve 30 months in prison for his conviction for bankruptcy fraud, in addition to two years of supervised release following his imprisonment, and ordered to pay a fine of \$6,000.00.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys MICHAEL D. LOVE and SCOTT A. VERSEMAN.

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