



U.S. Department of Justice

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FORMER SALES MANAGER OF OREGON, ILLINOIS COMPANY SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR 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:

Today, in Rockford Federal Court, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **THOMAS G. ACKERMAN**, 61, of Scottsdale, Arizona, to 8 months in prison, for defrauding his former employer, Woods Equipment Company ("Woods") of Oregon, Illinois. Ackerman held the position of Construction Equipment Sales and Marketing Manager. The fraud charges stemmed from Ackerman's submission of false travel expense reimbursement requests.

On June 16, 2010, Ackerman pled guilty to one count of interstate carrier fraud. In the plea agreement, Ackerman admitted that from June of 2001 through November of 2006, he submitted fraudulent travel expense reports which falsely listed expenses for airline flights which he did not purchase or take. Ackerman also admitted that he created false itineraries listing the prices for the flights to support his fictitious travel. Ackerman acknowledged that he sent the false travel expense reports and airline itineraries to Woods, via commercial interstate carrier, in order to cause Woods to issue travel reimbursement checks to him.

In addition to the 8 month prison sentence, Ackerman was ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison, four months of which will be served in home detention with electronic monitoring. The court also ordered Ackerman to pay restitution both to Woods' insurer, Traveler's Insurance Company, in the amount of \$43,894.55, and to Woods in the amount of \$43,107.91.

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 Attorney SCOTT A. VERSEMAN.

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