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7 DEFENDANTS SENTENCED FOR COUNTERFEIT CHECK RING

Last Defendant Sentenced in Conspiracy to Cash Counterfeit Payroll Checks

SHREVEPORT, La. - United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that seven defendants have been sentenced in a scheme to make and pass counterfeit securities. The defendants created and manufactured counterfeit payroll checks by using actual bank routing numbers. They then cashed the checks at various businesses and split the proceeds amongst themselves.

Charles Brian Bradford, 49, of Bossier City, La., was the head of this check cashing ring and was the manufacturer of the counterfeit payroll checks. He pleaded guilty to bank fraud and was sentenced on May 26, 2011, to 84 months in prison, five years supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$577.62 in restitution to Regions Bank.

Wendy D. Sanders, 49, of Bossier City, pleaded guilty to counterfeit securities and was sentenced on July 6, 2011, to 18 months in prison, three years supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$696.71 in restitution to Regions Bank.

Lewis E. Milem, III, 24, of Many, La., pleaded guilty to counterfeit securities and was sentenced on May 26, 2011, to 12 months in prison, with credit for time served. Milem also received three years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$294.34 in restitution to Brookshire's Grocery.

Tamer M. Musallam, 24, of Bossier City, La., pleaded guilty to counterfeit securities and was sentenced on May 26, 2011, to two years probation and ordered to pay \$993.29 to Wal Mart.

Jessie R. Monzon, 23, of Bossier City, La., pleaded guilty to counterfeit securities and was sentenced on June 28, 2011, to a total term of time served, three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$588.29 in restitution to Albertson's.

Amber K. Sturgeon, 26, of Haughton, La., pleaded guilty to bank fraud and was sentenced on June 24, 2011, to a total term of one day with credit for time served, three years supervised release, and \$596.12 in restitution to Regions Bank.

Jason J. Funderburk, 37, of Bossier City, La., pleaded guilty to bank fraud and was sentenced on July 14 to 48 months, five years supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$607.18 in restitution to Regions Bank.

This case was investigated by Special Agent Darron N. Craft of the United States Secret Service and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Cytheria D. Jernigan.

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