



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**



News Release

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Last of three defendants sentenced for bank fraud

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 27-year-old Isanti man was sentenced for using stolen identification information to create counterfeit checks used to obtain cash from financial institutions and merchandise from retail outlets. United States District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen sentenced Nathan Allen Miller to 57 months in prison on one count of bank fraud. Miller was indicted on December 7, 2010, along with co-defendants Kari Lynn Goodman, age 41, of Savage, and Michelle Rae Schneider, age 35, of Minneapolis.

In his plea agreement, Miller admitted that from November of 2006 through February of 2009, he conspired with others to commit bank fraud in order to obtain money and property. In addition, Miller admitted forging stolen checks and producing counterfeit checks, which were then used to purchase items from retail stores. Specifically, on February 16, 2009, he attempted to use a fraudulent check in the amount of \$1,262.15 at a store in Shakopee.

On July 11, 2011, Goodman was sentenced to 60 months on one count of bank fraud. She pleaded guilty on February 25, 2011. In her plea agreement, Goodman admitted that from November of 2006 through February of 2009, she, too, conspired to commit bank fraud. She also admitted forging stolen checks and producing counterfeit checks for use in buying retail merchandise. Specifically, on August 3, 2008, she used a fraudulent check in the amount of \$428.64 at a store in Owatonna.

On July 27, 2011, Schneider was sentenced to 30 months in prison on one count of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S. She pleaded guilty on December 27, 2010. In her plea agreement, Schneider admitted that from December of 2006 through February of 2009, she conspired with others to commit bank fraud. Moreover, she admitted stealing mail in order to obtain personal identification information and then using that information to create false means

of identification and counterfeit checks. Schneider, too, used those counterfeit checks at retail businesses. In addition, on September 20, 2008, Schneider used the stolen identity of one victim to obtain money at Mystic Lake Casino in Shakopee; and between December 1, 2008, and February of 2009, she racked up more than \$19,000 in fraudulent charges with the identity of another person.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and other state and local law enforcement agencies. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Otteson.

The Financial Crimes Task Force was established pursuant to state law. It is comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement investigators, who work to combat the growing trend of cross-jurisdictional financial crimes. The task force is overseen by an advisory board, also created under state law.

The USPIS and the Minnesota U.S. Attorney's Office want to remind people to protect themselves from identity theft. For more information, visit

<http://www.stopfraud.gov/protect-identity.html>

This law enforcement action is in part sponsored by the Nation Interagency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. The task force was established to wage an aggressive, coordinated and proactive effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. It includes representatives from a broad range of federal agencies, regulatory authorities, inspectors general, and state and local law enforcement who, working together, bring to bear a powerful array of criminal and civil enforcement resources. The task force is working to improve efforts across the federal executive branch and, with state and local partners, investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, ensure just and effective punishment for those who perpetrate financial crimes, combat discrimination in the lending and financial markets, and recover proceeds for victims of financial crimes.

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