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LISA M. COLONE	FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
973-645-2747	Nov. 20, 2009

Rahway Man Sentenced to 126 Months for Committing a Dozen Bank Robberies Throughout New Jersey

(More)

CAMDEN – A Rahway man was sentenced to 126 months in federal prison today for committing 12 bank robberies throughout New Jersey, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas also ordered Robert Arndt, 39, to pay approximately $82,000 in restitution and to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

Arndt pleaded guilty before Judge Irenas on July 8, 2009, to a three-count Information that charged him with bank robbery. At his plea hearing, Arndt admitted that during each of a dozen bank robberies he approached a teller and handed the teller a note that stated he had a gun and ordered the teller to put their money on the counter. In pleading guilty to the three counts of bank robbery contained in the Information, Arndt admitted robbing the following banks:

- July 8, 2008, Sovereign Bank in Linden, of approximately $13,700;
- July 28, 2008, Columbia Savings Bank in Colonia, of approximately $9,361;
- August 13, 2008, PNC Bank in Green Brook, of approximately $14,332.

As part of his guilty plea, Arndt also admitted to robbing the following additional banks:

- June 3, 2008, Lakeland Bank in Caldwell, of approximately $4,325;
- June 9, 2008, and again on August 29, 2008, Sovereign Bank in Parlin, of approximately $6,500 and $3,007, respectively;
- June 18, 2008, Sovereign Bank in East Brunswick, of approximately $7,150;
- July 2, 2008, Wachovia Bank in Middlesex, of approximately $2,145;
- August 9, 2008, Provident Bank in Edison, of approximately $3,298;
- August 23, 2008, Unity Bank in Highland Park, of approximately $6,100;
- September 3, 2008, Sovereign Bank in Red Bank, of approximately $5,901;
- September 9, 2008, Valley National Bank in Little Ferry, of approximately $6,700.

Arndt was arrested on Sept. 16, 2008, by Special Agents with the FBI and Police Officers with the Woodbridge Police Department and Investigators with Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office during an attempt to rob the Unity Bank in Middlesex.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Irenas took into consideration all of the relevant conduct and consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the FBI's Franklin Township Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun in Newark, and Investigators with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan, along with police officers with the police departments of each of the affected municipalities and the Rahway Police Department, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa M. Colone of the U.S. Attorney's Violent Crimes Unit.

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Defense Attorney: John Yauch, Esq.   Assistant Federal Public Defender