



Department of Justice

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SENTENCING IN CRIMINAL CONTEMPT CASE

Defendant Fined for Filing Document in Violation of U.S. Bankruptcy Court Rules

ALBANY —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that James E. Banagan was sentenced by United States Magistrate Judge Randolph F. Treece to a fine of \$250 and a special assessment of \$10 based upon the defendant's plea to one count of criminal contempt in connection with the filing of a document in a federal bankruptcy case in violation of the rules requiring that all such pleadings be executed by an attorney of record.

Banagan, age 63, of Albany, admitted that, on or about October 22, 2009, he knowingly and willfully disobeyed court rules by signing in the name of another an Objection to Proposed Plan and Valuation that he filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York in Albany, which conduct also constituted a violation of New York State Judiciary Law provisions prohibiting the practice of law by a person who is not duly and regularly licensed and admitted to practice law.

The case was referred by the Office of the United States Trustee, U.S. Department of Justice, and prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

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