



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF MAJOR HANDBAG DESIGN
COMPANY ARRESTED IN \$4 MILLION FRAUD**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the arrest late yesterday afternoon of MARTIN BODNER in connection with a scheme to defraud his employer, a major handbag design company (the "Victim Company"), of over \$4 million dollars. According to the Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court:

BODNER worked at the Victim Company in Manhattan as the Chief Financial Officer starting in or about approximately 2000. Beginning in 2004, BODNER began stealing money from the Victim Company. Ultimately, by December 2007, BODNER had stolen more than \$4 million from the Victim Company. BODNER stole these funds by: (1) causing the Victim Company to issue checks made payable to BODNER himself or to two credit card companies that held accounts in his name; and (2) causing the Victim Company to electronically transfer money from the Victim Company's payroll account to a bank account maintained by BODNER.

When interviewed by counsel for the Victim Company, BODNER initially stated that the prior chief executive officer of the Victim Company authorized him to be reimbursed for personal expenses incurred by him. Shortly thereafter, BODNER admitted that he had no authorization to have the Victim Company reimburse him for personal expenses incurred by him.

BODNER, age 59, resides in Port Washington, New York, and Manhattan. He is charged with one count of wire fraud. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gain or loss resulting from the crime.

BODNER was presented earlier today in federal court in Manhattan before United States Magistrate Judge RONALD L. ELLIS.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the FBI. Mr. GARCIA also said that the investigation is continuing.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The case is being handled by the Major Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL W. LEVY is in charge of this prosecution.

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