



***United States Attorney
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**RINGLEADER OF CHECK FRAUD SCHEME
SENTENCED TO 140 MONTHS IN PRISON**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DOUGLAS SHYNE was sentenced yesterday afternoon to 140 months in prison for his role as leader of a check fraud ring which had more than 25 members. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge KENNETH M. KARAS in federal court in White Plains.

SHYNE, 46, of Brooklyn, New York, pleaded guilty before Judge KARAS on March 19, 2007, to thirteen counts of bank fraud and conspiracy to commit bank fraud, as well as conspiracy to launder money. Twenty-six other participants in this multi-state scheme to steal, alter, and counterfeit \$8 million worth of checks have already been convicted. According to the evidence established at three trials relating to the scheme (United States v. Steven Riddick, et al.; United States v. Luvenia Bartee, et al.; and United States v. Donna Tillman), as well as SHYNE's admissions in connection with his plea and sentencing:

SHYNE was the mastermind of the check fraud ring, whose members procured stolen, altered, or counterfeit checks in a variety of unlawful ways. The conspirators then laundered the fraudulent checks by, among other things, depositing them into the bank accounts of willing participants or in accounts they had established using stolen identities. A large share of the proceeds ultimately was funneled back to SHYNE through a complex series of bank accounts.

Others convicted and sentenced in connection with the scheme include: TIMOTHY MONTGOMERY, an Olympic gold medalist and former world record-holding sprinter; STEVEN RIDDICK, himself an Olympic gold medalist and track coach to MONTGOMERY and former Olympic star MARION JONES-THOMPSON, as well as other world class athletes; CHARLES WELLS, a well-known sports agent for track and field athletes; and NATHANIEL ALEXANDER, a prominent Norfolk, Virginia businessman and a friend and officemate of RIDDICK's.

JONES-THOMPSON was convicted of making false statements to a federal agent in connection with their investigation of this scheme, as well as for separately making false statements in connection with the investigation into the activities of BALCO LABORATORIES, INC., in the Northern District of California.

RIDDICK, ALEXANDER, and JONES-THOMPSON were sentenced on January 11, 2008 to 63, 46, and 6 months in prison, respectively. WELLS was sentenced to 6 months of home confinement on February 27, 2008. MONTGOMERY was sentenced on May 18, 2008 to 46 months in prison. DONNA TILLMAN, who was convicted of money laundering conspiracy and money laundering, will be the last related defendant to be sentenced, on September 18, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. before United States District Judge LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN.

In addition to the 140-month prison term, Judge KARAS sentenced SHYNE to five years of supervised release and ordered him to pay restitution in an amount to be set.

Mr. DASSIN praised the investigative work of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys E. DANYA PERRY and DANIEL W. LEVY are in charge of the case.

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