

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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TEXAS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR MORTGAGE FRAUD

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Mary Ann Fulbright, 61, of Dallas, Texas, who was convicted of bank fraud, was sentenced to time served and five years supervised release by U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer. Fulbright was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$176,364.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Miller, who handled the case, stated that the defendant fraudulently obtained a Home Equity Conversion Loan, a type of reverse mortgage, on a Rochester home owned by her now-deceased parents, Stephanie and Michael Geremesz. Fulbright obtained the mortgage in her father's name knowing that it was based upon a fraudulent claim that Stephanie Geremesz had relinquished all rights to the property. As a result, a mortgage in the amount of approximately \$176,000 was levied against the property, the proceeds of which the defendant kept for herself.

This law enforcement action is part of President Barack Obama's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. President Obama established the interagency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force to wage an aggressive, coordinated and proactive effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. The task force 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, to 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.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development - Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent In Charge Cary Rubenstein.

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