

Department of Justice

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GEORGIA WOMAN CONVICTED BY A JURY OF BANK FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT

BUFFALO, N.Y.—U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Kristina Thomas, 40, of Columbus, Georgia, formerly of Buffalo, N.Y., was convicted after a two day jury trial before U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara, of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Edward H. White and Maura K. O'Donnell, who handled the trial of the case, stated that in 2005 and 2006, while the defendant was an employee of HSBC Bank, she and others came into possession of checks and a credit card from HSBC Bank. The checks and credit card were obtained using stolen identifying information of a woman from Illinois. Thomas and others then recruited individuals to cash the checks at various banks in Buffalo. The defendant also caused the credit card to be used at various retailers in Buffalo.

The verdict is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service under the direction of Inspector in Charge Robert Bethel.

Sentencing is scheduled for December 7, 2012 before Judge Arcara.

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