



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2010

LAWYER CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLING FUNDS

An indictment¹ was unsealed today against Jeffrey Abramowitz charging him with five counts of mail fraud and two counts of wire fraud, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. Abramowitz is a former partner in a Philadelphia law firm. He was arrested yesterday.

According to the indictment, from March 2005 to December 2008, Abramowitz falsely represented to the firm's clients that funds from their civil lawsuits and other transactions would be held in escrow by the law firm. Abramowitz was allegedly embezzling these funds from clients by depositing them into his personal bank accounts. Abramowitz allegedly duped clients into believing that he had completed transactions on their behalf when, in reality, he had stolen their money. In some cases, Abramowitz even endorsed checks issued to clients by allegedly forging the clients' signatures and then deposited the funds into his personal accounts.

The indictment further alleges that Abramowitz negotiated legal claims and executed settlement agreements in civil lawsuits without the knowledge or authority of the firm's clients, lied to clients regarding the settlement amounts, and created bogus documents to further his lies.

Abramowitz allegedly deposited the legal fees paid by the firm's clients into his personal bank accounts instead of into the firm's bank account. In total, it is alleged that Abramowitz stole over \$1 million from clients and his former law firm.

"Lawyers have a duty of trust to their clients," said Memeger. "Lawyers who violate that trust and engage in criminal conduct expose themselves to criminal prosecution and sanctions."

"Postal Inspectors will continue to protect the public from fraud schemes perpetrated by individuals like Jeffrey Abramowitz who took an oath to abide by the law and act in the best interest of his clients," said Inspector-in-Charge Teresa L. Thome with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

¹ An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
Jeffrey Abramowitz	Plymouth Meeting, PA	47

If convicted of all charges, the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 140 years in prison, a \$1.75 million fine, three years of supervised release, and a mandatory \$700 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Alexander Nguyen and Vineet Gauri.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525**

*COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae>*