



PRESS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*U. S. Attorney's Office and Federal Bureau of Investigation
host Banking Conference*

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA — United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II, announced that the United States Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation recently hosted a Bank Secrecy Act and Suspicious Activity Reports Conference for financial institutions and law enforcement agencies. The one-day seminar was held at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Criminal Justice Information Services Complex in Clarksburg, West Virginia, and was attended by more than 70 representative from banks and credit unions throughout the state as well local, state, and federal law enforcement officials.

According to U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld, the seminar was designed for individuals who work in anti-money laundering compliance and prepare suspicious activity reports. The objectives of the seminar were to further develop and strengthen the partnership between the banking community and law enforcement, and to familiarize attendees with the ways in which the suspicious activity reports are used by the Northern District of West Virginia's Financial Crimes Task Force. The Task Force was formed by Ihlenfeld in March of 2011 and meets regularly to investigate crimes from a financial perspective.

"The compliance officers at West Virginia banks are the first line of defense in keeping criminals from using our financial system to advance their illegal activity," said U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld. "Bankers play a critical role in preventing criminal enterprises from thriving, and so it is very important for the law enforcement community to work closely with the financial community."

U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld plans for this seminar to be an annual event and believes that it is a valuable tool for the banking industry and for law enforcement.



Pictured from left to right:

James Emery, Law Enforcement Liaison Specialist, FinCEN; **Bryant J. Moravek**, GE Capital Corporation and former FinCEN Agent; **David Caruso**, CEO, Dominion Advisory Group; **William J. Ihlenfeld, II**, United States Attorney; **Michael D. Stein**, Assistant U. S. Attorney; **Danae DeMasi**, Senior Law Clerk, Forfeiture Support Associates.