

**FILED**

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RICHARD W. WIEKING  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
OAKLAND

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12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
13 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
14 OAKLAND DIVISION

CR15-00228

15 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

) Criminal No.

) INFORMATION

16 v.

) VIOLATIONS: 15 U.S.C. § 1 –

) Bid Rigging (Count One);

) 18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy to

) Commit Mail Fraud (Count Two)

17 MARK ROEMER,

18 Defendant.

JST

19 The United States of America, acting through its attorneys, charges:

20 MARK ROEMER,

21 the defendant herein, as follows:

22 BACKGROUND

23  
24 1. At all times relevant to this Information, when California homeowners defaulted  
25 on their mortgages, mortgage holders could institute foreclosure proceedings and sell the  
26 properties through non-judicial public real estate foreclosure auctions (“public auctions”). These  
27 public auctions were governed by California Civil Code, Section 2924, *et seq.* Typically, a  
28 trustee was appointed to oversee the public auctions. These public auctions usually took place at

1 or near the courthouse of the county in which the properties were located. The auctioneer, acting  
2 on behalf of the trustee, sold the property to the bidder offering the highest purchase price.  
3 Proceeds from the sale were then used to pay the mortgage holders, other holders of debt secured  
4 by the property, and, in some cases, the defaulting homeowner (collectively, "beneficiaries").

5 COUNT ONE: 15 U.S.C. § 1 – Bid Rigging (Alameda County)

6 THE COMBINATION AND CONSPIRACY

7 2. Beginning as early as December 2009 and continuing until in or about November  
8 2010, the defendant, MARK ROEMER, and co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a  
9 combination and conspiracy to suppress and restrain competition by rigging bids to obtain  
10 selected properties offered at public auctions in Alameda County in the Northern District of  
11 California, in unreasonable restraint of interstate trade and commerce, in violation of the  
12 Sherman Act, Title 15, United States Code, Section 1.

13 3. The charged combination and conspiracy consisted of a continuing agreement,  
14 understanding, and concert of action among the defendant and his co-conspirators to suppress  
15 competition by agreeing to refrain from or stop bidding against each other to purchase selected  
16 properties at public auctions in Alameda County at non-competitive prices.

17 4. For the purpose of forming and carrying out the charged combination and  
18 conspiracy, the defendant and his co-conspirators did those things that they combined and  
19 conspired to do, including, among other things:

20 a. agreeing not to compete to purchase selected properties at public auctions  
21 in Alameda County;

22 b. designating which conspirator would win the selected properties at the  
23 public auctions for the group of conspirators; and

24 c. refraining from or stopping bidding for the selected properties at the  
25 public auctions.

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1           5.       Various entities and individuals not made defendants in this Count participated as  
2 co-conspirators in the offense charged and performed acts and made statements in furtherance  
3 thereof.

4                               TRADE AND COMMERCE

5           6.       During the period covered by this Information, the business activities of the  
6 defendant and his co-conspirators that are the subject of this Information were within the flow of,  
7 and substantially affected, interstate trade and commerce. For example, beneficiaries located in  
8 states other than California received proceeds from the public auctions that were subject to the  
9 bid-rigging conspiracy.

10                              JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11           7.       The combination and conspiracy charged in this Information was carried out, in  
12 part, in the Northern District of California, within the five years preceding the filing of this  
13 Information.

14                   ALL IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 15, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1.

15           COUNT TWO: 18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud (Alameda County)

16                              THE CONSPIRACY

17           8.       Beginning as early as December 2009 and continuing until in or about November  
18 2010 in Alameda County in the Northern District of California, the defendant, MARK  
19 ROEMER, and his co-conspirators did willfully and knowingly combine, conspire, and agree  
20 with each other to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, namely, to knowingly  
21 devise and intend to devise and participate in a scheme and artifice to defraud beneficiaries, and  
22 to obtain money and property from beneficiaries by means of materially false and fraudulent  
23 pretenses, representations, and promises.

24           9.       The objects of the conspiracy were to fraudulently acquire title to selected  
25 properties sold at public auctions in Alameda County, to make and receive payoffs, and to divert  
26 money to conspirators that would have gone to the beneficiaries.

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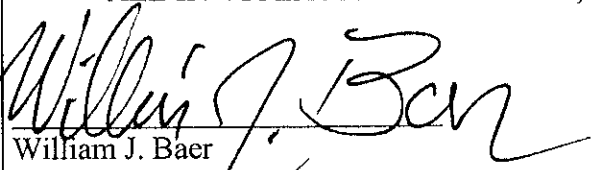



12. For the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud and attempting to do so, the defendant and his co-conspirators knowingly used and caused to be used the United States Postal Service and private or commercial interstate carriers. For example, trustees used the United States mail and private or commercial interstate carriers to transmit the Trustee's Deeds Upon Sale and other title documents to participants in the conspiracy. These mailings were foreseeable to the defendant in the ordinary course of business.

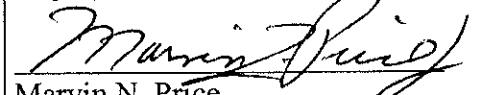
JURISDICTION AND VENUE

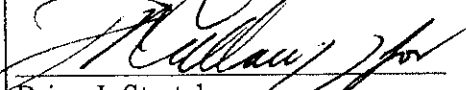
13. The combination, conspiracy, and agreement to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341 charged in this Information was carried out, in part, in the Northern District of California, within the five years preceding the filing of this Information.

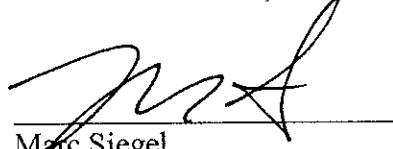
ALL IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1349.

  
William J. Baer  
Assistant Attorney General

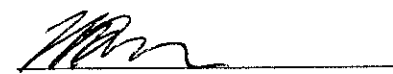
  
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