



United States Attorney's Office Western District of Pennsylvania

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BROTHERS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR \$4 MILLION FRAUD SCHEME

United States Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan announced today, February 23, 2007, that Gary Antonino, a resident of Orlando, Florida, has been sentenced in federal court in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to 87 months of imprisonment and five years of supervised release on his conviction of Bank Fraud, Wire Fraud and Money Laundering. He was also ordered to pay more than \$4,000,000 of restitution.

Ms. Buchanan also announced today, that Richard Antonino, the brother of Gary Antonino, has been sentenced to 37 months and three years of supervised release on his conviction of Wire Fraud. He was also ordered to pay more than \$325,000 in restitution.

United States District Judge Thomas Hardiman imposed the sentence on Gary Antonino, age 51, a former resident of Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania and currently of Orlando, Florida, and Richard Antonino, age 56, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

According to information presented to the

court by Assistant United States Attorney Brendan T. Conway, from 1996 to 2003 Gary Antonino owned or was associated with several dry cleaning operations in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. These entities were, for the most part, operated under the corporate entity Sew Clean Drycleaners and Launderings, Inc.

Gary Antonino also owned a golf driving range and go-kart facility in Wintersville, Ohio that operated under the corporate name Drivers MGGA, Inc.. He also operated under the registered fictitious name G. Patrick Enterprises.

Gary Antonino and Richard Antonino participated in a scheme to defraud investors through the use of the mails, interstate carriers, and the interstate wires by soliciting millions of dollars of investments into those businesses from dozens of victims through a series of misrepresentations and material omissions. Examples of some of the misrepresentations and material omissions, along with the actual facts are as follows:

- Gary Antonino and Richard Antonino represented to investors that their money would be used for a variety of purposes such as making capital improvements in the driving range, purchasing new land for a golf course, and various other seemingly appropriate investments, when, in fact, Gary Antonino and Richard Antonino, used the money to pay back other investors, to pay personal obligations, and to pay to support their lavish lifestyles.
- Gary Antonino and Richard Antonino falsely represented to investors that the investment was safe and that there was

no risk associated with the investment, when, in fact, this was not a safe investment and there were significant risks associated with the investment.

- Gary Antonino falsely represented that the investment was secured by a \$700,000 Certificate of Deposit held at Iron and Glass Bank, and he even showed investors a bank statement showing the \$700,000 Certificate of Deposit. While there was a \$700,000 Certificate of Deposit held at Iron and Glass Bank in Gary Antonino's name, that Certificate of Deposit was pledged as collateral and could not be used to secure the investment.
- Richard Antonino failed to tell investors that the investments would be with companies controlled by his brother.

In addition, Gary Antonino had a variety of financing arrangements with Iron and Glass Bank that required him to submit financial documents, including tax returns and financial statements, at the initiation of the financing arrangements and periodically during the course of the financing arrangements. Gary Antonino presented Iron and Glass Bank with financial documents that materially misrepresented the financial status of the businesses and his own financial status in that they indicated that the businesses were making money, when they were not. The financial documents also failed to disclose millions of dollars of liabilities owed to the investors.

Ms. Buchanan commended the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Gary and Richard Antonino.

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