



Department of Justice

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FINAL CO-CONSPIRATOR IN BANK FRAUD AND ID THEFT RING SENTENCED

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced today that on August 25, 2011, U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich sentenced Stephanie Renee Fields (27, Jacksonville) to 95 months in federal prison. Fields was the last co-conspirator to be sentenced for her participation in a bank fraud, mail theft, and aggravated identity theft ring that operated in the Middle District of Florida (MDFL) from mid-2007 through July 31, 2009. In addition to being ordered to pay restitution in excess of \$35,000 as part of the sentence, the court also entered a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of \$35,168.18, the proceeds of the charged criminal conduct attributed to Fields. Fields was convicted of participating in the bank fraud and one county of aggravated identity theft following a jury trial in April 2011.

Previously, on July 8, 2011, Anthony Joseph Henig (36, originally from Michigan) was sentenced to 104 months in federal prison; his half-brother, Gerald Thomas Lange (38, originally from Michigan) was sentenced to 76 months in federal prison; and Kayla Rose Kirklin (28, Michigan) was sentenced to 45 months, 16 days in federal prison.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, starting on an unknown date prior to August 1, 2007, through on or about July 31, 2009, Gerald Thomas

Lange, Anthony Joseph Henig, Kayla Rose Kirklin, and Stephanie Renee Fields conspired to and stole mail matters containing checks and identity information from various United States Postal Service mailboxes throughout the MDFL. The individuals used the information to create counterfeit checks and identity documents, as well as fraudulent invoices and purchase orders. The conspirators would then negotiate, cash, or attempt to negotiate and cash the fraudulent checks with various banks or businesses in Duval, Charlotte, Hillsborough, Manatee, Monroe, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, and Seminole Counties. Losses to victim banks and other businesses totaled approximately \$182,000, in addition to the failed attempts to negotiate an additional number of checks with a value of \$400,000.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Lakeland Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald L. Hansen.