



Department of Justice

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WESLEY CHAPEL MAN CHARGED WITH MORTGAGE AND BANKRUPTCY FRAUD

Tampa, FL - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces the unsealing of an indictment charging Marcelo Caruso (39, Wesley Chapel) with committing wire and mail fraud as part of a mortgage fraud scheme, and bankruptcy fraud. If convicted on all counts, Caruso faces a maximum penalty of twenty years in federal prison.

According to the indictment, from May 2006 to August 2007, Caruso induced lenders to fund mortgage loans for three separate properties by fraudulently inflating his income and/or falsely stating his intention to occupy each of the homes as his primary residence. In addition, the indictment alleges that on April 17, 2008, Caruso filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. In that petition, under penalty of perjury, Caruso is alleged to have made false statements regarding his income and prior residences.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Cherie L. Kringsman.