



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **FORMER HOME BUILDER DIVISION MANAGER SENTENCED FOR FRAUD AND PROHIBITED MONETARY TRANSACTIONS**

Fort Myers, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge John E. Steele yesterday sentenced Lawrence L. Ripley (54, Bonita Springs) to 36 months in federal prison and 3 years of supervised release for mail fraud, wire fraud and prohibited monetary transactions. The court ordered Ripley to pay restitution to Maronda Homes in the amount of \$220,412.00.

Ripley pleaded guilty on December 27, 2010 to three counts of mail fraud, two counts of wire fraud and five counts of prohibited monetary transactions. Ripley devised a scheme to defraud his then employer, Maronda Homes, of money and honest services, in excess of \$270,000.00. As part of the scheme he caused fraudulent invoices, from vendors he solicited, to be sent to Maronda Homes for payment. At Ripley's direction, the vendors wrote checks back to Ripley for approximately ninety percent of the monies they received from Maronda. Ripley converted the monies he received from vendors to cashiers checks, made payable to himself. Ripley personally received in excess of \$220,000.00 as a result of his scheme.

This case was investigated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Barclift.