

NEWS RELEASE:

Guy A. Lewis, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Hector M. Pesquera, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miami Field Division, and Jose Marrero, Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigation Division, Internal Revenue Service, Southeast Region, Plantation announced today that CSI Ag Ltd., a Bahamian corporation, was sentenced in connection with guilty verdicts on charges of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and conspiracy to engage in money laundering in connection with FINANCIAL FEDERATED TITLE & TRUST. CSI Ag Ltd. was sentenced to 5 years probation, the forfeiture of twenty-four houses, three motor vehicles, and three bank accounts located in the Bahamas, restitution in the amount of \$122,527,160, and a special assessment in the amount of \$800. The property forfeited is valued at approximately \$7 million and will be returned to the 4000 victims of the mail fraud scheme, in which investments in viaticated insurance policies were sold, as restitution. This brings the total amount of money collect by the government for restitution to the victims of this scam to approximately \$8.5 million.

Mr. Lewis commended the efforts of Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents Gary Van Eerde, Anthony L. Yanketis, Gary Hellmer, and Stephen Lucchesi; and Internal Revenue Service Special Agents Klaus Hurme and Suzanne Kalwara for their detailed efforts in uncovering the massive scheme that led to the indictment. Mr. Lewis also recognized the contributions of the State of Florida, Department of Banking & Finance, to the prosecution effort. Mr. Lewis commended the efforts of Korinne Harper, financial analyst with the Department of Banking & Finance, for her analytical work in tracing funds related to the underlying fraud. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ellen Cohen and Steve Carlton in West Palm Beach, Florida.