



*U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
Southern District of Mississippi*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Florida Man Sentenced to Seventy Months in Federal Prison for Home Repair Fraud

Gulfport, Miss - Ricky Douglas Deveny, 52, of Estero, Florida, was sentenced in federal court today to 70 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release, U.S. Attorney John M. Dowdy, Jr. and Daniel McMullen, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Mississippi, announced.. Deveny was also ordered to pay restitution of over \$1.3 million.

Deveny, who pled guilty to wire fraud on October 19, 2010, conducted fraudulent business and real estate activities during 2005 and 2006, devising and carrying out schemes to obtain money or property from individuals and homeowners in Harrison and Hancock Counties. Deveny created numerous false and misleading real estate contracts in order to lure individuals into investing in his business, Sandstone Construction, Inc. Deveny promised victim homeowners that he would perform construction or home repair, charging and being paid various sums of money, and never performing the promised work. Many of these victims had suffered damage to their property as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

This investigation was conducted by the FBI's Jackson Field Office, Gulfport Resident Agency.

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