



# Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

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## **TOBIN PLEADS GUILTY TO BOGUS MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FINANCING SCHEME**

Atlanta, GA - ANTHONY TOBIN, 51, of Atlanta, Georgia, today pleaded guilty to federal charges of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, and one count of wire fraud. TOBIN was indicted on the charges along with two co-defendants on March 25, 2009.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This defendant organized an advance fee scheme, which targeted people who needed loans or venture capital for legitimate purposes. As with other such scams, the victims had to pay a fee up front before they could secure the purported loan. TOBIN took the advance fees knowing that he would not secure investment loans for them. Now he will face federal prison for his fraud."

Atlanta United States Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey Gilbert said, "Let this case serve as a warning to con artists who masquerade as brokers of funds and prey on entrepreneurs and small businesses in need of working capital. Our agency along with our law enforcement partners will bring to justice anyone who receives upfront fees under false pretenses."

Martin Phanco, Special Agent in Charge, United States Postal Inspection Service, said, "The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has investigated advance fee schemes for many years. This case is no different. Advance fee scams are still out there and so are we. Postal Inspectors will continue to go after those who use the U. S. Mail to defraud the American public."

Joe Doyle, Administrator of the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs, said of today's guilty plea, "OCA is gratified that after years of investigation of this defendant's activities, there is now a guilty plea through a truly coordinated effort among three Federal agencies and the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs. No matter how much and how long it takes, we will pursue these individuals and do our best to see them brought to justice."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and information presented in court: TOBIN organized a conspiracy to utilize various Internet networking websites for the purpose of obtaining email addresses of potential victims. TOBIN and others he directed contacted and convinced victims that he was in the business of providing and marketing various sources of venture capital, investment funds and business loans. TOBIN then told potential victims that he had access to an investment fund and venture capital through his company's supposed consortium of private investors. TOBIN met with potential victims in Atlanta with the supposed purpose of hearing their business proposals to receive funding from the consortium. As a precondition for this funding, the victims were required to pay non-refundable advance expenses and fees. TOBIN admitted today that, contrary to what he promised victims, he did not have and did not intend to provide to the victims access to loans and investment funds. TOBIN kept the fees and transferred them to other accounts controlled by TOBIN and the co-defendants in the case. Over three dozen victims lost money in the scheme. At the time of the plea, losses were estimated to be approximately \$5 million.

Two other co-defendants were charged in the case. EYAL DULIN, 39, of Snellville, Georgia, remains a fugitive, and KATHERINE TWIGG, 47, of Hoschton, Georgia, is scheduled to plead guilty to related charges on July 28, 2009.

Sentencing for TOBIN has been set for October 8, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., before United States District Judge Timothy C. Batten, Sr. TOBIN faces a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$500,000. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, Postal Inspectors from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the (Georgia) Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs.

Assistant United States Attorney Bernita Malloy is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).