

August 26, 2005

**LEADER OF \$10 MILLION REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE SCAM
AND MORTGAGE BROKER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; BYRAM TICHENOR, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations Division (“IRS-CID”); LOUIS BIANCHI, McHenry County State’s Attorney, and HOWARD PARTH, Chief of the Crystal Lake Police Department, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **JAN ROZYCKA**, 43 (DOB: 10/3/61), of 3701 North Harding, Chicago, Illinois, also known as “Jan Rozycki,” also known as “John Hanus,” also known as “Jarek,” also known as “John Krzinski,” to 9 years and 1 month in federal prison without parole, for his federal fraud conviction stemming from a \$10 million real estate mortgage scheme. Judge Reinhard today also sentenced **DOROTHY KAWA**, 37 (DOB: 7/29/68), of 6313 West Cuyler, Chicago, Illinois, owner of Northwest Fidelity Mortgage Corporation in Morton Grove, Illinois, to 3 years and 1 month in federal prison without parole, for her fraud and money laundering convictions arising from the same scheme.

The charges to which Rozycka and Kawa pled guilty are part of a 37-count indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury in Rockford on April 8, 2004. That indictment charged eleven individuals with wire fraud, mail fraud, and money laundering. The indictment alleges that the defendants defrauded several banks and other lenders out of millions of dollars by conducting numerous fraudulent real estate closings.

On August 25, 2004, Rozycka pled guilty to two counts of wire fraud. In pleading guilty, Rozycka admitted that he was one of the organizers and leaders of the fraudulent real estate closing scam. Specifically, Rozycka admitted that he recruited other participants in the scheme to pose as “straw” buyers and sellers. Rozycka also admitted that he provided fraudulent “Mortgage Releases” to the title companies at the real estate closings. These fraudulent Mortgage Releases falsely represented that the prior mortgages against the properties had been paid off. In addition to the 109 month federal prison sentence, the court ordered Rozycka to pay \$8,663,180.14 in restitution. Judge Reinhard also ordered that after Rozycka completes his federal prison sentence, he will be surrendered to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“BICE”) for deportation proceedings.

On June 15, 2005, Kawa pled guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. In pleading guilty, Kawa admitted that, acting through her mortgage brokerage company, she knowingly arranged loans for individuals who were acting as “straw” buyers of properties controlled by the leaders of the scheme. In addition to the 37 month federal prison sentence, Judge Reinhard also ordered Kawa to serve a 5 year period of supervised release following

her release from prison. In addition, the court also indicated that it will order Kawa to pay restitution, which is estimated to be approximately \$6,000,000.

Three other defendants who were charged in the same federal indictment have previously been sentenced. Those three defendants are:

ZBIGNIEW RECKO, 36 (DOB: 11/20/68), last known address of 3901 North Tripp Avenue, Number 310, Chicago, Illinois, also known as “Robert Karolkiewicz,” also known as “Tomasz Wozny,” also known as “Tomasz Romanzuk,” also known as Tomasz Godowski,” also known as “Bradley Anatol Wawreniuk,” also known as “Roman Parczewski.” On September 28, 2004, Recko pled guilty to one count of wire fraud. In pleading guilty, Recko admitted that he acted as a “straw” seller, using several different false identities, at six of the fraudulent real estate closings. On August 18, 2005, United States Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced Recko to 24 months in federal prison, and further ordered Recko to pay \$1,793,499.73 in restitution.

IGNACY KONDRAD, 50 (DOB: 2/18/55), 2862 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, also known as “Piotr Poltorak,” also known as “Jan Jestal.” On June 8, 2004, Kondrad pled guilty to one count of money laundering. In pleading guilty, Kondrad admitted that he laundered approximately \$4.5 million of the profits from the fraudulent real estate closings through four bank accounts that he had opened in false names. On December 30, 2004, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced Kondrad to 63 months in prison, ordered Kondrad to pay \$4,463,135.39 in restitution, and further ordered him to forfeit all funds that were seized from one of the bank accounts that he had used during the scheme.

WALDEMAR WILKIEWICZ, 30 (DOB: 1/10/75), 3153 North Hamlin, Chicago, Illinois, also known as “Robert Karolkiewicz.” On May 28, 2004, Wilkiewicz pled guilty to one count of wire fraud. In his guilty plea, Wilkiewicz admitted that, using the false name of “Robert Karolkiewicz,” he posed as a straw seller at two fraudulent closings in Crystal Lake on September 23, 2003. On August 6, 2004, Judge Reinhard sentenced Wilkiewicz to 18 months in federal prison.

Judge Reinhard also ordered that Recko, Kondrad, and Wilkiewicz will each be surrendered to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“BICE”) for deportation proceedings following their release from prison.

Five other defendants charged in the same indictment have pleaded guilty, but have not yet been sentenced. Those five defendants are:

MICHAEL SKATULSKI, 33 (DOB: 9/14/71), 1808 South Michigan Avenue, Number 37, Chicago, Illinois, also known as “Michael Novak.” On July 11, 2005, Skatulski pled guilty to two counts of wire fraud. In pleading guilty, Skatulski admitted that he participated in the fraud scheme by recruiting individuals to pose as “straw” buyers at the fraudulent real estate closings, by appearing at and supervising the fraudulent closings, and by presenting fraudulent mortgage releases to the title companies at these closings. The sentencing hearing for Skatulski has been scheduled for October 7, 2005.

MAGDALENA BANASIK, 54 (DOB: 11/12/50), 6006 West Miami, Chicago, Illinois. On July 8, 2004, Banasik pled guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. In pleading guilty, Banasik admitted that she participated as a “straw” buyer or “straw” seller at eight fraudulent real estate closings. She also admitted that she allowed her bank account to be used to launder profits generated by the fraud. The sentencing hearing for Banasik has been scheduled for October 7, 2005.

ROBERT KAROLKIEWICZ, 41 (DOB: 4/17/64), 3109 North Octavia, Chicago, Illinois. On July 8, 2004, Karolkiewicz pled guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. In pleading guilty, Karolkiewicz admitted that he participated as a “straw” buyer at 5 fraudulent real estate closings and allowed his bank account to be used to launder profits generated by the fraud. The sentencing hearing for Karolkiewicz has been scheduled for October 7, 2005.

BOZENA SAUCIUC, 45 (DOB: 5/13/60), 204 Lake Shore Drive, Oakwood Hills, Illinois. On June 30, 2005, Sauciuc pled guilty to one count of wire fraud. In pleading guilty, Sauciuc admitted that she participated as a “straw” buyer at 3 fraudulent real estate closings. The sentencing hearing for Sauciuc has been scheduled for October 7, 2005.

JULITA URAMOWSKA, 32 (DOB: 12/07/72), 3903 Grand Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois, also known as “Julie Smalley.” On October 6, 2004, Uramowska pled guilty to one count of wire fraud. Uramowska was employed as a loan officer for P & I Financial Group, a mortgage brokerage firm located in Northbrook, Illinois. In her guilty plea, Uramowska admitted that she knowingly arranged financing for a “straw” buyer of one of the properties involved in the scam. The sentencing hearing for Uramowska has not yet been scheduled.

Each of the wire fraud counts to which the defendants have pleaded guilty carries a maximum sentence of up to thirty years of imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, and restitution. Each of the money laundering counts carries a maximum sentence of up to twenty years of imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and restitution. The actual sentences will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The one remaining defendant in the case is **IOAN CORSIUC**, 65 (DOB: 6/13/40), 4869 North Kilbourn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Corsiuc is charged with five counts of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. The district court has severed the case against Corsiuc from the cases against the other defendants because of Corsiuc's poor health. Corsiuc's case is set for a status hearing on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Ioan Corsiuc is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being investigated by the Rockford offices of the FBI and IRS-CID. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney SCOTT A. VERSEMAN. The investigation was initiated on September 23, 2003, when the Crystal Lake Police Department arrested Rozycka, Kondrad, and Wilkiewicz on forgery charges after they conducted a fraudulent real estate closing in Crystal Lake. The Crystal Lake Police Department and the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office are assisting in the federal investigation.

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